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*William Bolton Cowley*









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ELIZABETH BROWNING

*Engraved for the Rev. Mr. H. B. Browning*

THE  
**NEWGATE CALENDAR;**

COMPRISING  
INTERESTING MEMOIRS

OF  
THE MOST NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS

WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF OUTRAGES ON

*The Laws of England*

SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY;

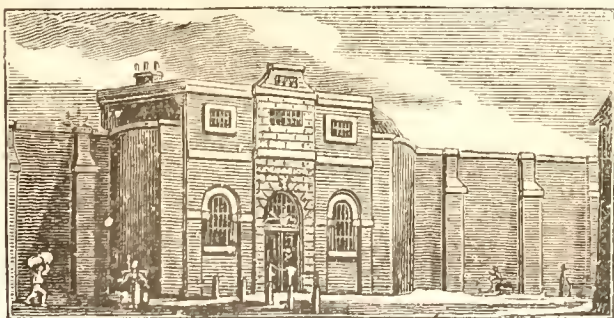
WITH

OCCASIONAL ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS,

SPEECHES, CONFESSIONS, AND LAST EXCLAMATIONS OF SUFFERERS.

BY

ANDREW KNAPP AND WILLIAM BALDWIN,  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.



*Surrey Gaol, Horsemonger Lane.*

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# KNAPP AND BALDWIN'S NEWGATE CALENDAR,

AND

## Criminal Recorder.



*Simms and other young Thieves regaling at a Brick-Kiln near Tottenham Court Road.*

### HENRY SIMMS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

HENRY SIMMS was born in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, and, losing his father while very young, his grandmother, who was a Dissenter, sent him first to a school kept by a clergyman of her own persuasion; but, as he frequently ran away, she placed him at an academy in St. James's parish, where he became a proficient in writing and arithmetic, and was likewise a tolerable Latin and French scholar.

Before the boy had completed his tenth year he gave a specimen of his dishonest disposition. His

grandmother taking him with her on a visit to a tradesman's house, he stole twenty shillings from the till in the shop; which being observed by the maid-servant, she informed her master; and, the money being found on the youth, he was severely punished.

He now began to lie from home on nights, and associated with the vilest of company in the purlieus of St. Giles's. His companions advising him to rob his grandmother, he stole seventeen pounds from her, and, taking his best apparel, repaired to St. Giles's, where his new



acquaintance made him drunk, put him to bed, and then robbed him of his money and clothes.

On his waking he covered himself with some rags he found in the room, and, after strolling through the streets in search of the villains, went into an alehouse, the landlord of which, hearing his tale, interceded with his grandmother to take him again under her protection. To this, after some hesitation, she consented; and, buying a chain with a padlock, she had him fastened during the day-time to the kitchen grate, and at night he slept with a man, who was directed to take care that he did not escape.

After a month of confinement he had his liberty granted him, and new clothes purchased, with which he immediately went among some young thieves who were tossing up for money in St. Giles's. On the approach of night they took him to a brick-kiln near Tottenham Court Road, where they broiled some steaks, and supped in concert; and were soon joined by some women, who brought some Geneva, with which the whole company regaled themselves.

Simms, falling asleep, was again robbed of his clothes, the brick-makers, when they came to work in the morning, finding him in his shirt only; and, while they were conducting him towards town, he was met by his grandmother's servant, who was in search of him, and conveyed him to her house.

Notwithstanding his former behaviour, the old lady received him kindly, and placed him with a breeches-maker, who having corrected him for his ill behaviour, he ran away, and, taking his best clothes from his grandmother's house in her absence, sold them to a Jew, and spent the money in extravagance.

The old gentlewoman now went to live at the house of Lady Stanhope, whither the graceless boy followed her, and, being refused admittance, he broke several of the windows. This in some measure compelled his grandmother to admit him; but that very night he robbed the house of as many things as produced him nine pounds, which he carried to a barn in Marylebone Fields, and spent it among his dissolute companions.

For this offence he was apprehended, and, after some hesitation, confessed where he had sold the effects; from which time his grandmother gave him up as incorrigible; and, being soon afterwards apprehended as a pickpocket, he was discharged for want of evidence.

Simms now associated with the worst of company: but, after a narrow escape on a charge of being concerned in sending a threatening letter to extort money, and two of his companions being transported for other offences, he seemed deterred from continuing his evil courses; and thereupon wrote to his grandmother, entreating her further protection.

Still anxious to save him from destruction, she prevailed upon a friend to take him into his house, where for some time he behaved regularly; but, getting among his old associates, they robbed a gentleman of his watch and money, and threw him into a ditch in Marylebone Fields; when some persons accidentally coming up prevented his destruction.

Two more of Simms's companions being now transported, he hired himself to an innkeeper as driver of a postchaise; and after that lived as postilion to a nobleman, but was soon discharged on account of his irregular conduct.

Having received some wages, he

went again among the thieves, who dignified him with the title of *Gentleman Harry*, on account of his presumed skill, and the gentility of his appearance.

Simms now became intimately acquainted with a woman who lived with one of his accomplices, in revenge for which the fellow procured both him and the woman to be taken into custody on a charge of felony, and they were committed to Newgate; but, the Court paying no regard to the credibility of the witnesses, the prisoners were acquitted.

Soon after his discharge Simms robbed a gentleman of his watch and seventeen pounds on Blackheath; and likewise robbed a lady of a considerable sum near the same spot. Being followed to Lewisham, he was obliged to quit his horse, when he presented two pistols to his pursuers; by which he intimidated them so as to effect his escape, though with the loss of his horse.

Repairing to London, he bought another horse, and travelling into Northamptonshire, and putting up at an inn at Towcester, learnt that a military gentleman had hired a chaise for London; on which he followed the chaise the next morning, and kept up with it for several miles. At length the gentleman, observing him, said, 'Don't ride so hard, sir—you'll soon ride away your whole estate;' to which Simms replied 'Indeed I shall not, for it lies in several counties;' and, instantly quitting his horse, he robbed the gentleman of one hundred and two guineas.

He now hastened to London, and, having dissipated his ill acquired money at a gaming-table, he rode out towards Hounslow, and, meeting the postilion who had driven the above-mentioned gentleman in Northamptonshire, he gave him five

shillings, begging he would not take notice of having seen him.

A reward being at length offered for apprehending Simms, he entered on board a privateer; but, being soon weary of a seafaring life, he deserted, and enlisted for a soldier. While in this station he knocked out the eye of a woman at a house of ill fame, for which he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison.

Soon after this Justice De Veil admitted him an evidence against some felons, his accomplices, who were transported, and Simms regained his liberty.

Being afterwards apprehended for robbing a baker's shop, he was convicted, and, being sentenced to be transported, was accordingly shipped on board one of the transport-vessels, which sailing round to the Isle of Wight, he formed a plan for seizing the captain, and effecting an escape: but, as a strict watch was kept on him, it was not possible for him to carry this plan into execution.

The ship arriving at Maryland, Simms was sold for twelve guineas, but he found an early opportunity of deserting from the purchaser. Having learnt that his master's horse was left tied to a gate at some distance from the dwelling-house, he privately decamped in the night, and rode thirty miles in four hours through extremely bad roads, so powerfully was he impelled by his fears.

He now found himself by the seaside, and, turning the horse loose, hailed a vessel just under sail, from which a boat was sent to bring him on board. As hands were very scarce, the captain offered him six guineas, which were readily accepted, to work his passage to England.

There being at this time a war between England and France, the ship was taken by a French priva-

teer, but soon afterwards ransomed, and Simms entered on board a man of war, where his diligence promoted him to the rank of a midshipman; but the ship had no sooner arrived at Plymouth than he quitted his duty, and, travelling to Bristol, spent the little money he possessed in the most dissipated manner.

His next step was to enter himself on board a coasting vessel at Bristol; but he had not been long at sea, before, on a dispute with the captain, he threatened to throw him overboard, and would have carried his threat into execution if the other seamen had not prevented him. Simms asked for his wages when the ship returned to port; but the captain threatening imprisonment for his ill behaviour at sea, he decamped with only eight shillings in his possession.

Fertile of contrivances, he borrowed a saddle and bridle, and, having stolen a horse in a field near the city, he went once more on the highway, and, taking the road to London, robbed the passengers in the Bristol coach, those in another carriage, and a lady and gentleman travelling singly, and repaired to London with the booty he had acquired.

Having put up the stolen horse at an inn in Whitechapel, and soon afterwards seeing it advertised, he was afraid to fetch it; on which he stole another horse; but, as he was riding through Tyburn turnpike, the keeper, knowing the horse, brought the rider to the ground.

Hereupon Simms presented a pistol, and threatened the man with instant death if he presumed to detain him. By this daring mode of proceeding he preserved his liberty, and, having made a tour round the fields, re-entered London by another road.

On the following day he went to

Kingston-upon-Thames, where he stole a horse, and robbed several people on his return to London; and the day afterwards he robbed seven farmers of eighteen pounds. His next depredations were on Epping Forest, where he committed five robberies in one day, but soon spent what he thus gained among women of ill fame.

Thinking it unsafe to remain longer in London, he set out with a view to go to Ireland, but had rode only to Barnet when he crossed the country to Harrow-on-the-Hill, where he robbed a gentleman, named Sleep, of his money and watch, and would have taken his wig; but the other said it was of no value, and hoped, as it was cold weather, his health might not be endangered by being deprived of it.

The robber threatened Mr. Sleep's life unless he would swear never to take any notice of the affair; but this that gentleman absolutely refused. Hereupon Simms said, that, if he had not robbed him, two other persons would, and told him to say 'Thomas' if he should meet any people on horseback.

Soon after this Mr. Sleep, meeting two men whom he presumed to be accomplices of the highwayman, cried out 'Thomas;' and the travellers paying no regard to him, he was confirmed in his suspicions, and rode after them; and, on his arrival at Hoddesdon Green, he found several other persons, all of them in pursuit of the highwayman.

In the mean time Simms rode forwards, and robbed the St. Albans stage; after which he went as far as Hockliffe; but, being now greatly fatigued, he fell asleep in the kitchen of an inn, whither he was pursued by some light horsemen from St. Albans, who took him into custody.

Being confined for that night, he



was carried in the morning before a magistrate, who committed him to Bedford gaol. By an unaccountable neglect his pistol had not been taken from him, and on his way to prison he attempted to shoot one of his guards; but, the pistol missing fire, his hands were tied behind him, and, when he arrived at the prison, he was fastened to the floor, with an iron collar round his neck.

Being removed to London by a writ of habeas corpus, he was lodged in Newgate, where he was visited, from motives of curiosity, by numbers of people, whom he amused with a narrative of his having been employed to shoot the king.

On this he was examined before the Duke of Newcastle, then secretary of state; but, his whole story bearing evident marks of fiction, he

was remanded to Newgate, to take his trial at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions.

Ten indictments were preferred against him, but, being convicted for the robbery of Mr. Sleep, it was not thought necessary to arraign him on any of the others.

After conviction he behaved with great unconcern, and, in some instances, with insolence. Having given a fellow-prisoner a violent blow, he was chained to the floor. Simms appeared shocked when the warrant for his execution arrived; but, soon resuming his former indifference, he continued it even to the moment of execution, when he behaved in the most thoughtless manner.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1746.

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MARY HAMILTON, *ALIAS* CHARLES HAMILTON, *ALIAS*  
GEORGE HAMILTON, *ALIAS* WILLIAM HAMILTON,

WHIPPED FOR MARRYING WITH HER OWN SEX.

POLYGAMY, or a man marrying two or more wives, and, *vice versa*, a woman marrying two or more husbands, is a crime frequently committed; but a woman, according to the rites of the established Church, marrying a woman, is something strange and unnatural. Yet did this woman, under the outward garb of a man, marry fourteen of her own sex!

At the quarter-sessions held at Taunton, in Somersetshire, this woman was brought before the Court; but under what specific charge, or upon what penal statute she was indicted, we can neither trace by the mention of the circumstance, nor could we frame an indictment to meet the gross offence, because the law never contemplated a marriage among women. She was, however, tried, whether or not

her case might have been cognizable, and Mary Price, the fourteenth wife, appeared in evidence (in such a case as this we must be pardoned for ambiguity) against her female husband. She swore that she was lawfully married to the prisoner, and that they bedded, and lived together as man and wife, for more than a quarter of a year; during all which time, so well did the impostor assume the character of man, that she still actually believed she had married a fellow-creature of the right and proper sex. At length, the prosecutrix added, she became mistrustful, and, comparing certain circumstances with the married Goodies, her neighbours, she was convinced that Mary had acted the part of Charles towards her by the vilest and most deceitful practices.

The learned quorum of justices,

'In full-blown dignity of wigs,  
Mounted on blocks, thus cogitated'—

'That the he, she, prisoner at the bar, is an uncommon notorious cheat; and we, the Court, do sentence her or him, whichever he or she may be, to be imprisoned six months, and, during that time, to be whipped in the towns of Taun-

ton, Glastonbury, Wells, and Ship-ton-Mallet, and to find security for good behaviour as long as they, the learned justices aforesaid, shall or may, in their wisdom and judgment, require;' and Mary, the monopolizer of her own sex, was imprisoned and whipped accordingly, in the severity of the winter of the year 1746.

## HOSEA YOEUELL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in October, 1747, Hosea Youell and Jacob Lopez, two Jews, were indicted for the murder of Captain Johns; when the former was convicted, and the latter acquitted.

The story of this affair is as follows:—Mr. Johns coming up Sand-wich Court, Devonshire Square, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, met two men, whom he believed to be Jews, who robbed him of his watch and money. Hearing some people coming towards him, he called out 'Stop thief;' on which one of them returned, and gave him a stab in the body, of the depth of nine inches, as appeared by the deposition of the surgeon who attended Captain Johns at the Dolphin Inn, Bishopsgate Street, and extracted a piece of the sword from his body.

Youell being taken into custody, Alderman Rawlinson attended the wounded man, who positively charged Youell with being the murderer, and signed his charge, being in his perfect senses, but died within fifteen minutes afterwards.

The wounded man, being asked how he could be so positive to Youell, said he knew him by the light from a lamp; and that he should know his voice. Youell, being bidden to turn round, slouch

his hat, and speak, hesitated for a while; but at length complying, the captain said, 'You are the man that stabbed me; I am positive of your voice.'

A piece of the sword was found in the court where the captain was stabbed, which exactly tallied with the piece lodged in the body of the deceased; and it also appeared that Youell had requested the city marshal to speak to the alderman, that he might be admitted an evidence; averring that the murder was not committed by himself, but by one Hart.

After conviction the prisoner said that he was only eighteen years of age, and born of Jewish parents, who lived in Cree-church Lane, Leadenhall Street. He was so illiterate that he could neither read Hebrew nor English. The Ordinary of Newgate representing to him the advantages of the Gospel over the Mosaic dispensation, he said that, as he was born and bred a Jew, he would die such.

This malefactor was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1747.

He was attended by a Rabbi, and at the place of execution steadfastly denied having been guilty of the murder. However, he earnestly advised young people to be cautious in the choice of their company, as



it was by a neglect of that caution that he had come to a fatal end.

There is a familiar proverb, implying that those who labour under a bad name are generally apt enough to render themselves deserving of it, the imputation producing a sense of abasement very unfavorable to the exercise of virtue. This, we suspect, holds

good, in no small degree, with regard to the numerous body of Jews resident in the metropolis. We are far from wishing to infer that these are uniformly dishonest; we know to the contrary: but it is at the same time pretty clear that the great majority of them subject themselves to the degrading appellation of cheats and thieves.

### GEORGE LANCASTER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGING A SEAMAN'S WILL.

THIS offender was born in Hatton Garden, London, of respectable parents, who placed him with a reputable attorney, with whom he served part of his clerkship in the most regular manner; but, making very bad connexions, his master requested his parents to take him home and send him to sea, as the most likely means to prevent his ruin.

The parents, approving this hint, persuaded the son to sail as captain's clerk on board a ship in the royal navy; and he continued some years in this station.

He came to London when his ship was paid off, and, having received a considerable sum of money, dissipated the whole in houses of ill fame. His father was now dead; and his mother, with a fondness very natural, but which perhaps contributed to his ruin, supplied his extravagances till she was very much reduced in her own circumstances; and in the mean time the son borrowed money in her name of any one who would trust him; but at length, his character being lost, and his mother totally impoverished, he determined on the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

A seaman named Hugh Price, to whom thirty-six pounds were due for wages, died on board the Dor-

chester man of war, having made a will in favour of his wife and son, who lived near Whitehaven, in Cumberland. Lancaster, hearing of the death of Price, forged a will purporting to be his; and, carrying it to Doctors' Commons, obtained a probate of the will, in consequence of his swearing that he was the son of the above-mentioned Price.

Being thus possessed of the probate, he went to a public house, producing to the landlord a letter signed 'George Price,' whom he averred was the son of the deceased, and had empowered him to dispose of his father's wages. The landlord, unacquainted with these matters, applied to a gentleman, who told him he might safely purchase if Lancaster could get the original ticket, and would lodge the probate in his hands as a collateral security.

The publican mentioning this to Lancaster, he said he would procure the original ticket from Portsmouth; but, at the expiration of four days, he produced a forged ticket, which the landlord, on the advice of a friend, purchased for twenty-seven pounds.

About three months after this transaction, a clerk of the Navy Office calling on the publican, he showed him the ticket. He said he

thought it a good one, but would write to the agent at Portsmouth to inquire into the fact. The agent's answer was, that Hugh Price's ticket, in favour of his son George, was still in the office; so that it was evident that Lancaster's ticket must be a forgery.

Hereupon the landlord went to the mother of the delinquent, and said that he would adjust the matter if either she or her son could make good the deficiency; otherwise he would prosecute. The poor woman said she knew not where to find her son; and, as to herself, it was out of her power.

The publican then went to an attorney, who advised him to make a debt of the affair, and arrest Lancaster for the money. This being done, he was committed to the Poultry Compter, where he was informed that he should be set at liberty if his friends would make a subscription to raise the sum; but, not having friends to assist him in this essential matter, the publican went to the Navy Office, where he informed the commissioners of the affair, and they ordered Lancaster to be prosecuted by their solicitor.

Lancaster's guilt being proved in the clearest manner on his trial, he was convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction he entertained the most sanguine hopes of a reprieve, through the interest of his friends; but, being disappointed in his expectation, he

made the most serious preparation for the awful fate that awaited him.

He suffered at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1747, but was in too bad a state of health to make any address to the surrounding multitude.

What we would remark on in this case is the conduct of the landlord, who would have forgiven the criminal if his loss could have been made good; thus proving that he had a greater regard to his own interest than to the enforcement of the laws of the land. Public justice appeared in his eyes as of less consequence than private property; and we are fearful that there are but too many of the same selfish disposition.

We would wish these people to consider that the man who prosecutes a felon merely through revenge, or with the single view of recovering his lost property, without regard to the public welfare, is not himself two degrees honest than the thief. The laws were made for the general good, and to this end they should always be directed: the defence of private property is included in that of the public; and, if every one would exert himself for the general welfare, that of individuals would be effectually promoted.

Happy should we think ourselves to impress these liberal sentiments on the mind of every reader, assured that they would tend to advance the happiness of the community at large!

#### SERGEANT SMITH, EXECUTED FOR DESERTION.

On the 26th of November, 1747, a court-martial\* assembled at Whitehall, of which Marshal Wade was

president, for the purpose of trying Sergeant Smith, who had been lately brought from Scotland, charged

\* Courts-martial are composed of a certain number of officers, according to the magnitude of the charge against the prisoner, of which one is president and another judge advocate. A regimental court-martial is appointed by the commander of each troop or

with deserting into the service of the French, and afterwards to that of the rebels; and, having heard the evidence for and against the prisoner, he was found guilty.

On the 11th of December he was conducted from the Savoy prison to the Parade in St. James's Park; where, being met by a detachment of the foot-guards, commanded by Colonel Drury, they proceeded to Hyde Park. The unhappy man was attended by the minister of the Savoy, and, having arrived at a gibbet, under which was a new-made grave to receive his body, he seemed little moved at these dreadful preparations; indeed there was an apparent unconcern in the whole of his behaviour.

This was a man of extraordinary ability, but vicious principle. He had served several of the princes in the then late wars in Germany, and

abused them all by desertion. He was master of several languages, and from this acquirement he acted as interpreter to our officers, who were so partial to him, that they appointed him a paymaster-sergeant, and in fact treated him as their companion. His income could not have been less than two hundred pounds a year. A man thus caressed must be truly a villain who could be base enough to desert his duty; but Smith was of a roving turn, and could not keep long in a place,—the excuse he gave for his crimes. He died undauntedly, and declared himself a Protestant. Reports had been circulated, owing probably to the fluency with which he spoke French, that he was a papist. He was immediately buried under the gibbet, which was erected on the bank of the Serpentine river.

### JOHN PARKES,

EXECUTED FOR FORGING AN ORDER ON A SILVERSMITH FOR  
UNWROUGHT SILVER.

THIS malefactor was a native of Wrexham, in Denbighshire; and, having been liberally educated, was apprenticed to a silversmith, with whom he served his time with a

fair character, and then came to settle in London.

After a residence of more than twenty years, during which he worked as a journeyman, he be-

regiment, for the trial of offences which are not deemed sufficiently heinous to be carried to a general court-martial. Regimental courts-martial are often assembled, sometimes in a few minutes, at the drum-head, and consist of a captain, the president, and four subaltern officers, members. They are not sworn, but give sentence and judgment, like the Lords sitting on the trial of a peer on a charge affecting his life—'Upon their honours.' This may be termed the internal or domestic management of a regiment, trying offences by a court of its own officers; but, where a charge is of a serious nature, as mutiny, desertion, or treason, then application is made to the commander-in-chief for a general court-martial. It is composed of veteran officers, the oldest being the president, and the advocate-general, or his deputy, attending. This office partakes both of civil and military functions. He regulates the evidence, propounds questions as well for the prosecutor as the accused, takes minutes of the trial, and sums up the evidence in the manner of a civil judge on the trial of a criminal, for the determination of the Court. This done, the Court is cleared of all strangers, and the members alone debate on the nature of the crime, and give their respective decisions, beginning with the youngest, who, being called upon by the president, pronounces 'Guilty,' or 'Not Guilty,' as he feels the case. The next is then called upon, and a majority of voices forms the sentence; the president, on an equal number for and against the prisoner, having the casting vote. When found guilty, in like manner they determine upon the penalty, whether death or corporal punishment. The sentence is then sent to the king for approbation; and, when confirmed, the punishment is inflicted.

came distressed in circumstances, which induced him to think of having recourse to the following method of supplying his necessities.

Having drawn a bill on Mr. Scott, a refiner in Love Lane, in the name of Mr. Brown, of Lombard Street, for one hundred ounces of silver, he carried it to the house of the former, who, not being at home, an apprentice read the draft, and asked if Parkes was a silversmith, and for whom he worked. He told him for Mr. Robinson, in Bond Street. The apprentice said he was well acquainted with Mr. Robinson; but, not knowing that his master dealt with Mr. Brown, he begged that the bearer would call for an answer in the morning.

Parkes now went home to bed; but, reflecting that he could imitate Mr. Robinson's handwriting, with which he was perfectly acquainted, he wrote a letter in his name to Mr. Scott, informing him that he would be answerable for Brown's credit, if any doubt was entertained of it, and begging that no disappointment might happen.

Parkes had some idea of carrying this letter himself; but, reflecting on the danger that might attend such a proceeding, he went into a public house near Cripplegate in the morning, and, calling for a pint of beer, sent a porter with the letter, telling him to inform Mr. Scott that he came from Mr. Robinson, of Bond Street; and to add, that the person who had been there the preceding day was taken ill. The porter was no sooner gone than Parkes paid for his beer, and told the woman of the house that if the porter brought any thing he was to leave it at the bar.

This being done, he followed the porter, and, observing him to go into Mr. Scott's, he stopped in a

dark passage till he saw him come out; and, when he was at a small distance from the house, he followed him, and, receiving the bag of silver, paid him for the portorage, and decamped with all expedition. He carried his ill-gotten booty to the house of an acquaintance near the Seven Dials, where he melted part of the silver, and spent the produce in the most extravagant manner.

Being again reduced, he melted the remainder of the silver, and, mixing it with some copper, he offered it for sale to a refiner, who threatened to apprehend him for presenting adulterated silver; but the offender pretending that he had no intention of fraud, the refiner paid him the amount of the silver.

Having thus escaped punishment for the first offence, he committed several other crimes of a similar nature, and at length that which cost him his life. Having forged a note in the name of Mr. Lamery, he carried it to a refiner in Oat Lane, named Froxhall, desiring that two hundred ounces of silver might be delivered to the bearer. This note he delivered to Froxhall's apprentice, who carried it up stairs to his master, but first fastened the door, that Parkes might not escape. The boy, coming down soon, desired Parkes to sit down, and his master would wait on him. He did so; and Mr. Froxhall, coming down, asked who wanted the silver. Parkes said he did; on which he was desired to wait, and he should have it: but in the mean time the apprentice was sent for a constable, who conducted Parkes before the lord mayor, by whom he was committed to Newgate.

Being indicted at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction he exhibited signs of the utmost penitence,



and sincerely lamented the past irregularities of his life. He behaved devoutly at the place of execution, and warned others to avoid

those practices which brought him to a fatal end.

Parkes was hanged at Tyburn on the 14th of February, 1748.

## WILLIAM WHURRIER,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

This culprit was a native of Morpeth, in Northumberland, and brought up as a husbandman; but, having enlisted as a soldier in General Cope's regiment, he served five years and a half in Flanders; and some horses being wanted for the use of the army, he and another man were sent to England to purchase them.

On the 11th of February, 1748, Whurrier and his companion were walking over Finchley Common towards Barnet; when the latter, being wearied, agreed with a post-boy, who went by with a led horse, to permit him to ride to Barnet, leaving Whurrier at an alehouse on the road.

Whurrier, having drank freely, met with a female who appeared to be his countrywoman; and with her he continued drinking till both of them were intoxicated, when they proceeded together towards Barnet; but they were followed by some sailors, one of whom insulted Whurrier, telling him that he had no business with the woman.

Whurrier, suspecting there was a design to injure him, asked the woman if she had any connexion with those men. She said she had not; but in the mean time the other sailors, coming up, said they came to rescue the woman; on which Whurrier drew his sword, but returned it into the scabbard without annoying any one.

A soldier riding by at this instant, Whurrier told him that the sailors had ill treated him, and begged his assistance; on which the soldier

getting off his horse, the sailors ran away, and Whurrier, pursuing them, overtook the first that had assaulted him, and, drawing his sword, cut him in such a manner that he was carried in a hopeless condition to a house in the neighborhood, where he languished till the Sunday following, and then died.

It appeared by the testimony of a surgeon that the deceased had received a cut across the skull, as if done with a butcher's chopper, so that the brains lay open; besides a variety of other wounds.

Whurrier, being taken into custody for the commission of this murder, was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey; and, being capitally convicted on the clearest evidence, was sentenced to die.

After conviction he said he thought there was a combination between the woman he had met with and the sailors; and a day or two before he suffered he procured the following paper to be published, which he called 'Whurrier's Declaration':—

'This is to let the world know that I have lived in good credit, and have served his majesty eight years and two months. In the time of my service I have stood six campaigns, and always obeyed all lawful commands. I have been in three battles, and at Bergen-op-Zoom during the time it was besieged. The first battle was at Dettingen, June, 1743, when his majesty headed his army; the second was in the year 1745,



April 30, at Fontenoy; the third was at Luckland, by siege; besides several skirmishes, and other great dangers. I had rather it had been my fate to have died in the field of battle, where I have seen many thousands wallowing in their blood, than to come to such disgrace; but, alas! I have escaped all these dangers to come to this unhappy fate, to suffer at Tyburn, and afterwards to hang in chains on a gibbet, which last is the nearest concern to me; and I cannot help thinking that it would be more beneficial to the public to employ blacksmiths to make breast-plates for the soldiers, than irons to enclose their bodies, to be exposed to the fowls of the air.

‘I have been a true subject and faithful servant, as is well known to the officers of the regiment to which I belonged. If I had been a pick-pocket or a thief, I should have suffered much more deservedly, in my own opinion than I now do; for what I did was in my own defence. I was upon the king’s duty, and was assaulted by the men in sailors’ habits, who gave me so many hard blows, as well as so much bad language, that I could no longer bear it, and was obliged to draw my sword in my own defence; and being in too great a passion, as

well as too much in liquor, I own I struck without mercy; as thinking my life in danger, surrounded by four men, who I thought designed to murder me; who or what they were the Lord knows; it is plain they had a false pass, as was proved; and that they had travelled but seven miles in nine days; but I forgive them, as I hope forgiveness; and the Lord have mercy on my soul, and the poor man’s whom I killed.

‘W. WHURRIER.’

Whurrier was executed at Tyburn on the 7th of March, 1748, and his body afterwards hung in chains on Finchley Common.

The crime of this man seems to have arisen from a sense of injury, inflamed by intoxication; and affords a strong lesson against the vice of drunkenness; a vice which, depriving a man of his reason, does but at the best level him with the brutes, and frequently reduces him many degrees *below* the rest of the animal creation.

Sobriety, in itself a virtue, is naturally productive of a thousand others. The mind that is calm and composed is fitted for the practice of all its duties; while, on the contrary, the devotees of debauchery are as useless to the public as they are unhappy in themselves.

## GEORGE COCK,

EXECUTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

THIS artful rogue was born in the neighborhood of Aldgate, and at a proper age apprenticed to a peruke-maker in Spitalfields; but he absconded before the time expressed in his indenture was expired, and his master, judging him to be strongly disposed to disorderly and profligate courses, took no measures to induce his return.

Cock lived seven or eight years

as errand-boy and porter to several tradesmen, none of whom had reason to suspect that he purloined their property: but he was held by them in no esteem, on account of his being frequently intoxicated, and associating with people of dissolute principles. It is natural to suppose that the abandoned company he kept increased his inclination to a life of idleness, and proved

the cause of his pursuing felonious courses for procuring the means of subsistence.

Having made pretensions of love to a maid-servant in the neighborhood of May Fair, she invited him to her master's house: he was punctual to the appointment, and, during his stay, treacherously stole a silver spoon of about twelve shillings' value.

Learning that a lady lived at Streatham, whose son was abroad, he went to her house, and informed her that he was lately arrived in England, and waited upon her by the desire of the young gentleman, to assure her of the continuance of his filial affection. He was invited to partake of the best provisions the house could afford, and entertained with great liberality, kindness, and respect. After he had sufficiently refreshed himself, and secreted a large silver spoon in his pocket, he departed, intending to direct his course towards the metropolis. The spoon being missed, two servants were dispatched in search of the thief; and, overtaking him at about the distance of a mile from the house, they conducted him to a magistrate, who committed him to Bridewell as a vagrant, as the lady was averse to prosecute him for the felony. Having remained in prison about three months, and been privately whipped, he was dismissed, after the justice by whom he was committed had pathetically represented to him the disgrace, danger, and iniquity, of seeking to obtain a livelihood by illegal practices.

Upon gaining information that the father of a young gentleman of Bartholomew Lane was abroad, he went to the house, and pretended to the youth that he was preparing to embark for the country in which his father resided; saying that, as

he was acquainted with the old gentleman, he should be happy to deliver any message or letter, or execute any commission with which the son might think proper to charge him. His reception here was not less hospitable than that he experienced at Streatham; and he did not take leave till he had conveyed a silver enp into his pocket, with which he got off undiscovered. He sold the eup, and expended the money it produced in the most extravagant manner.

Cock went to the house of the captain of a trading vessel in Ratcliffe Highway, whom he knew was at sea, expecting that he should be able to amuse his wife by some plausible pretences, and to obtain a booty before he left the house. He was informed that the captain's lady was not at home; but was invited into the house by her mother, who told him that she expected her daughter's return in a very short time. Being shown into the kitchen, he asked the maid-servant for some table-beer, and, while she was gone to draw it, he secreted a large silver tankard: upon the maid bringing the beer he drank heartily, and then, pretending that he had some business to transact which would not permit him to stay any longer, took leave, promising to return on the following day. He sold the tankard to a Jew.

He inquired of a maid-servant in Spitalfields whether there were not some women in that neighborhood whose husbands were in foreign parts. The girl said the husbands of two or three of her master's neighbours were abroad, and asked the name of the person he desired to find. He said he had forgotten the name, but artfully added that he should remember it upon hearing it repeated; in consequence of which she mentioned some names, and,

upon his particularizing one of them as that of the party he wanted, the girl directed him to the house where the wife of his supposed friend resided. He told the woman that he was lately arrived in England; and, by her husband's express desire, called to inform her of his being in perfect health when he embarked. He formed some trifling excuse for occasioning the woman to leave the apartment, and, soon after her return, went away, taking with him a pint silver tankard and two silver table-spoons.

By the above, and other offences of a similar nature, he gained a maintenance for several years: but it will now appear that, notwithstanding the art he employed in the pursuit of villainy, he at length fell a just victim to the insulted laws of his country.

Cock went to two ladies in Soho Square in one day, under the pretext of delivering messages from their husbands, who had been several years resident in foreign parts; and was received by them in the most kind and hospitable manner. He had been gone but a short time, when one of the ladies missed some silver spoons; in consequence of which he was pursued and taken before a magistrate; and, during his examination, the other appeared, and, on oath, identified a silver tankard found in the prisoner's possession. He was committed to Newgate, and, at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, condemned to suffer death.

During his confinement in Newgate he showed not the least remorse for his past offences, nor employed any part of the short time he had to exist in making the necessary preparation for the awful change he was about to experience; but flattered himself in the expectation of being reprieved. However,

after learning that he was ordered for execution, he in some degree corrected the irregularity of his behaviour; but still his conduct was by no means such as might have been expected from a man in his dreadful situation.

He was almost wholly regardless of the devotional exercises at the place of execution, and refused to address the populace, though urged to it by the Ordinary.

This offender was executed at Tyburn on the 13th of June, 1748.

At an early time of life Cock manifested a strong propensity to vicious courses; but it does not thence follow that he was irreclaimable. When he absconded during his apprenticeship, it became a duty incumbent on his master to pursue every possible means for inducing his return; for by exerting a lawful authority over him, or by the more gentle method of appealing to his reason, representing the ill consequences naturally resulting from dissolute courses, and the certain happiness attending a life regulated by the dictates of virtue, it is probable that he might have effected an entire reformation in his conduct. It is, at all events, beyond dispute, that the master was deserving very severe reprehension for shamefully neglecting all endeavours to avert the ruin of a youth committed entirely to his protection. When a man takes an apprentice, let him consider that he has a more important duty to fulfil than that of merely instructing him in the method of earning a livelihood; that he becomes the guardian of his morals, and that he must incur a heavy weight of guilt if he suffers them to be corrupted through his inattention or example.

In robbing the house to which he was invited by the woman to



whom he had made a declaration of love, this offender added to a felonious act circumstances of a most aggravating nature: he violated the faith he had solemnly sworn to preserve, and subjected an innocent person to the suspicion of a crime which has been seldom known to be followed by a punishment less severe than death.

On the 14th day of September, 1748, was executed at Old Down, near Bath, Richard Biggs, for the murder of his wife, with horrid barbarity. Her head, breast, arms, thighs, and legs, were full of bruises and wounds. After having beat

her to death, he carried the body and threw it into the river near Bath. He was convicted on the evidence, shocking to relate! of his own son, a boy only eleven years of age. When on the ladder, and before the rope was affixed to the fatal tree, he jumped down and lay flat on the ground, refusing to stir. He made great opposition, and long struggled for life. Thus, though he had so inhumanly deprived his wife of existence, he showed how sweet life was to himself by his reluctance to yield it up, though forfeited to the laws of his country.

### JOHN LANCASTER,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

We could wish, seriously, to caution all young people against a habit of attending fairs. They constitute an assemblage of idle people, where are indiscriminately mixed thieves and pickpockets, who go from fair to fair; loose women, strolling players, and vagabonds of every description, waiting to plunder the honest part of the people. Saint Bartholomew's fair, from its long continuance, is a school of vice which has initiated more youth into the habits of villainy than even Newgate itself. Some time since a numerous gang of infant thieves, of both sexes, were detected in committing depredations of every description which they could accomplish. They had, in imitation of Macheath's gang, their captain, and the receiver of the stolen property, who, though the oldest of the confederacy, were not more than thirteen or fourteen years of age!

The parents of John Lancaster were poor but honest people, who put him to school to be instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and, when about fourteen years of

age, apprenticed him to a velvet-weaver, who, as well as his parents, lived in Whitechapel.

After the term of his servitude had expired, he for some time followed his trade as a journeyman. He was naturally inclined to vicious practices, and constantly associated with the most profligate company. He was known to have committed several offences against the laws, for one of which he was apprehended and secured in Newgate, where he contracted an acquaintance with a man named Lewis. They were both acquitted in the same sessions—Lewis in defect of evidence, and Lancaster because no prosecutor appeared.

They went together to Rumford, predetermined to obtain money by violence. At Stratford they stopped a gentleman, and robbed him of his watch, a guinea, and some silver. Their success in this attempt giving them a greater flow of spirits, Lewis (who had long been a notorious thief) said, 'Come along with me, my boy, and we shall soon get money enough to live like gentlemen;' and they agreed to seek no

means of support but that most dangerous and unjustifiable one of making depredations on the public.

They now determined to go to Smithfield, it being the time of Bartholomew fair, and met there a boy of their own iniquitous profession, who, being acquainted with them, produced a silver mug, which he informed them he had stolen, at the same time offering to allow them a share in the booty. Leaving the fair, they went to Duke's Place, in order to sell the mug to a Jew named Levi Chitty; but he not being at home, they adjourned to a neighboring alehouse to wait till his return: but they had not long been there before Lancaster broke open a drawer, and from thence stole several valuable articles. They now paid for the beer they had drank, and escaped without suspicion.

Having disposed of their booty, Lancaster and Lewis determined to divide the whole produce, in exclusion of the boy who had stolen the silver mug, and therefore they sent him to a public house in Bishopsgate Street, where they promised to meet him, but with a resolution to forfeit their word.

On the following day they stole a quantity of brass candlesticks, which they sold for fifty shillings to the Jew, who told them that he would not have given so high a price but that he was desirous of encouraging them to steal articles of greater value.

They made a booty of a number of silk handkerchiefs, and the money received for them from the Jew they spent in the company of several prostitutes, among whom was Sarah Cock, the widow of George Cock, whose memoirs we have already recorded.

Lancaster, Lewis, and Sarah Cock, went the following evening to the Royal Exchange, where

they picked the pockets of several passengers of watches, pocket-books, purses of money, and other property.

They frequented all places of public resort; and, during divine service on a Sunday evening at the Foundry, near Moorfields, they picked the pockets of several of the congregation. On their return from the place of worship they came to the house of a velvet-weaver; and, Lancaster knowing him to be reputed as a man of considerable property, it was determined to break open and rob the house. Having effected an entrance, they secured a quantity of plate, and then went into the warehouse, whence they stole velvet to the amount of more than one hundred pounds. Having obtained this considerable booty, they went to Sarah Cock, and, giving her the velvet, adjourned to an alehouse in Houndsditch, to wait till she had disposed of it to the Jew.

The sum Cock demanded for the velvet the Jew said was more than he could really afford to give, as the colour was very indifferent, and he should be put to expense in sending it to Holland, where all his stolen goods were exported for sale. During their conversation they were observed by a weaver and a constable, who suspecting the velvet to have been stolen, the woman was interrogated as to the manner of its coming into her possession. She acknowledged having received the property from Lancaster and Lewis, and mentioned the house where they were then waiting; in consequence of which they were both apprehended, and secured in Newgate.

Lewis being admitted an evidence for the crown, Lancaster was convicted of stealing the silver mug and other property, and sentenced to die. While under sentence of death the Ordinary endeavored to give



him a proper idea of his duty to his Creator; but to the very moment of his death he obstinately persisted in a refusal to make what atonement was yet in his power for the many offences he had committed.

On the 24th of September, 1748, John Lancaster was executed at Tyburn.

Lancaster was bred to a business that would have procured him a comfortable livelihood; but, instead of supporting himself in a reputable manner, he indulged a

disposition to indolence and a fondness for the company of dissolute people, which led him to transgress the laws, whereby he was doomed to a violent and ignominious death. We shall conclude in the words of the Rambler: 'He that does his best, however little, is always to be distinguished from him that does nothing. Whatever busies the mind, without corrupting it, has at least this use, that it rescues the day from idleness; and he that is never idle will not often be vicious.'



*William York, aged Ten Years, murdering Susan Mahew, aged Five Years.*

### WILLIAM YORK, CONVICTED OF MURDER.

THIS unhappy child was but just turned of ten years of age when he committed the dreadful crime of which he was convicted. He was a pauper in the poorhouse belonging to the parish of Eye, in Suffolk, and was committed, on the coroner's inquest, to Ipswich gaol,

for the murder of Susan Mahew, another child, of five years of age, who had been his bedfellow. The following is his confession, taken and attested by a justice of the peace, and which was, in part, proved on the trial, with many corroborating circumstances of his guilt.

He said that a trifling quarrel happening between them on the 13th of May, 1748, about ten in the morning, he struck her with his open hand, and made her cry : that she going out of the house to the dunghill, opposite to the door, he followed her, with a hook in his hand, with an intent to kill her ; but before he came up to her he set down the hook, and went into the house for a knife : he then came out again, took hold of the girl's left hand, and cut her wrist all round to the bone, and then threw her down, and cut her to the bone just above the elbow of the same arm. That, after this, he set his foot upon her stomach, and cut her right arm round about, and to the bone, both on the wrist and above the elbow. That he still thought she would not die, and therefore took the hook, and cut her left thigh to the bone ; and, observing she was not dead yet, his next care was to conceal the murder ; for which purpose he filled a pail with water at a ditch, and, washing the blood off the child's body, buried it in the dunghill, together with the blood that was spilled upon the ground, and made the dunghill as smooth as he could ; afterwards he washed the knife and hook, and carried them into the house, cleaned the blood off his own clothes, hid

the child's clothes in an old chamber, and then came down and got his breakfast. When he was examined he showed very little concern, and appeared easy and cheerful. All he alleged was, that the child fouled the bed in which they lay together ; that she was sulky, and that he did not like her. (Judge Hales ordered a boy of the same age to be hanged, who burnt a child in a cradle.\*)

This ' boy murderer ' was found guilty, and sentence of death pronounced against him ; but he was respited from time to time, and, on account of his tender years, was at length pardoned.

If we were not well aware of the frequent negligence of keepers of poorhouses we should say that this premeditated and deliberate murder could not have been effected. Several hours must have elapsed during the shocking transaction ; where, then, was the care over the infant paupers ? The overseers of the poor, in many instances, are extremely attentive to their parish dinners ; but, were they to employ the time lost in this sensuality in care and attendance to the morality of the individuals placed under their control, such crimes might be avoided, and the child of charity brought up in the paths of industry and virtue.

### JOSEPH RAWLINS, *ALIAS* GREAT JOE,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

JOSEPH RAWLINS was indicted at the assizes held at Winchester, for the year 1748, for burglariously breaking into the dwelling-house of Mr. Wakefield, of Selborne, in the county of Hants, on the 6th

of September, 1747, and stealing thereout cash, plate, and other effects, the property of the said Wakefield.

It appeared in evidence that this fellow, at the head of thirteen more,

\* Two boys, and small for their years, named John Bunn and Joseph Leech, the former fourteen, and the other fifteen years old, for a street robbery, were hanged at Tyburn. Let children beware of committing crimes, for their youth will not always save them.

met on the day of the robbery at Adverse Heath, in Sussex, whence they proceeded to Woolmer Forest, where they lay concealed till the evening. They then mounted their horses, and arrived about eight near Mr. Wakefield's. Jeremiah Curtis, one of the villains, rode up to the house, and, pretending he had lost his way, desired to be set right. The men-servants of the house having informed him, he asked for some beer, when an old maid-servant went to draw some; but he found great fault with it, and called for ale. She told him that her master had the key, and was gone to bed. On this he rode back to his companions, who immediately came up, armed with blunderbusses and pistols, and, pretending to be officers, demanded the master of the house, insisting that he harboured outlawed smugglers. Being answered that he was in bed, they broke open the door, and, going up to Mr. Wakefield's room, presented a blunderbuss to his breast, and, with horrid imprecations, demanded where he kept his money. On being told he had no money, they pulled him across the bed; yet still he persisted. They then told him to point out his plate; and, fearing to be murdered, he showed them the chest. This they immediately broke open, and stole thereout a silver tankard, a salt, porringer, salver, and twelve spoons: from another room, fourteen guineas, a silver watch, and several other things of value. Meanwhile the prisoner at the bar, Rawlins, with another, held the horses of those plundering, fearing to enter, as they were known to the family. Another of the party kept guard over the servants, threatening them with instant death if they stirred.

Having plundered the house of

every portable article of value, they returned to Mr. Wakefield, and, with dreadful oaths, demanded two hundred pounds, which they insisted he had just received at Bristol. He protested that he had received nothing; upon which they dragged him out of bed, and swore they would carry him off unless he discovered his money; but, finding him resolute, they let him go. The next day the thieves divided their booty, of which the prisoner had his share.

The old servant woman who had kindly given drink to the first villain swore that they rifled her pockets of four shillings.

The defence set up by this old offender was weak and ignorant; so that the jury, without hesitation, found him guilty, and he was accordingly executed at Winchester, Oct. 10, 1748.

It is, without doubt, highly expedient that the crime of burglary should be punished more severely than any other species of theft, since, besides the loss of property, there is something very terrific in the mode of perpetration, which is often productive of dreadful effects.

The ancient laws made a marked distinction in the punishment between this offence, which was called *Hamsokne* (which name it retains at present in the northern parts of this kingdom), and robbing a house in the day-time.

It is impossible to reflect upon the outrages and acts of violence continually committed, more particularly in and near the metropolis, by lawless ravagers of property and destroyers of lives, in disturbing the peaceful mansion, the castle of every Englishman, and also in abridging the liberty of travelling upon the public highways, without asking—Why are these enormities suffered in a country where the



criminal laws are supposed to have arrived at a greater degree of perfection than any other?

This is an important inquiry, interesting in the highest degree to every member of the body politic.

If, in pursuing such an inquiry, the situation of Holland, Flanders, and several of the northern states on the Continent, be examined, it will be found that this terrific evil had (we allude to the situation of those states previously to the late wars) there scarcely an existence; and that even the precaution of bolting doors and windows during the night was seldom used: although, in those countries, from the opulence of many of the inhabitants, there were great temptations to plunder.

This security did not proceed from severer punishments, for in very few countries are they more sanguinary than in England. It is to be attributed to a more correct and energetic system of police, joined perhaps to an early and general attention to the employment, education, and morals, of the lower orders of the people: a habit of industry and sobriety is thus acquired, which, imbibed in early life, 'grows with their growth and strengthens with their strength.'

Houses intended to be entered during the night are, in general, previously reconnoitred and examined for days preceeding. If one or more of the servants are not already associated with the gang, the most artful means are used to obtain their assistance; and, when every previous arrangement is made, the mere operation of rob-

bing a house becomes a matter of little difficulty. By the connivance and assistance of immediate or former servants, the villains are led to the places where the most valuable, as well as the most portable, articles are deposited, and the object is speedily attained.

In this manner do the principal burglars and housebreakers proceed: and let this information serve as a caution to every person in the choice both of their male and female servants; since the latter as well as the former are not seldom accomplices in very atrocious robberies.

It frequently happens that the burglars make their contracts with the receivers on the evening before the plunder is obtained, so as to secure a ready admittance immediately afterwards, and before day-break, for the purpose of effectual concealment, by melting plate, obliterating marks, and securing all other articles, so as to place them out of the reach of discovery. This has long been reduced to a regular system, which is understood and followed as a trade. Even hackney-coachmen have been known to promote, in an eminent degree, the perpetration of burglaries and other felonies: bribed by a high reward, many of these have eagerly entered into the pay of nocturnal depredators, waiting in the neighborhood until the robbery is completed, and then drawing up at the moment the watchmen are going their rounds, or off their stands, for the purpose of conveying the plunder to the house of the receiver, who is generally waiting the issue of the enterprise.

### THOMAS THOMPSON,

EXECUTED FOR HORSE-STEALING.

THE parents of this offender lived Otley, in Yorkshire: his father dying, his mother and a numerous family were left in very indigent



circumstances. Thomas being arrived at a proper age, the parish-officers proposed binding him apprentice; but he declined the offer, saying he should prefer going to sea with a captain who was come into the country to visit his mother and other relations. He accompanied the captain to Durham: the postmaster of that city, thinking him an active and promising youth, hired him to wait upon his customers three days in a week, and to ride post on the others. During the three years that he remained in this station he was guilty of stealing money out of letters, and of several other acts of delinquency; of which, however, he was not suspected till some time after he had quitted his master's service.

From Durham he returned to Otley; but, not being able to procure employment there, proceeded to Rippon, where he was engaged as a waiter at the sign of the King's Head. In about three months he robbed his master of thirteen pounds, and absconded. Going again to the place of his nativity, he learnt that an aunt lately deceased had bequeathed him twelve pounds; and, having received the legacy, and purchased some new apparel, he set out for London, where in a short time he spent all his money in disorderly houses, among women of ill fame. Being in circumstances of distress, he made application for relief to a relation, who behaved to him with great tenderness and generosity; notwithstanding which he availed himself of an opportunity of robbing his benefactor of two silver spoons.

He offered the spoons for sale to a silversmith near Charing Cross; but, his honesty being suspected, a messenger was dispatched to inquire whether he lived at the place he had mentioned to the shopkeeper. Be-

fore the messenger's return Thompson effected his escape, and it appeared that he had given a false direction. In a few days he was met near Exeter 'Change by the silversmith, who insisted upon his going home with him; but, being a man of an easy disposition, he was prevailed upon by the entreaties of the young villain to favour his escape.

He now again returned to Otley; and, a dance being held there one evening, he made one of the company. At this place he prevailed upon a young woman to consent to his partaking of her bed; but she dismissed him upon discovering that he was destitute of money. Thus disappointed, he returned to the house where he lodged, and broke open a box, whence he stole fifteen shillings.

Early the next morning he stole a horse, and rode to his late master's at Darham, where he said he was employed to go to Newcastle on important business, and should return on the following day. The innkeeper believed his tale; and, upon his repeating his visit next day, made him welcome, and expressed much pleasure at the seemingly favorable change in his situation. In the morning, however, the boy who had been with the mail to Darling informed Thompson that the hue-and-cry was after him on suspicion of horse-stealing. In consequence of this intelligence he took the road for Scotland, and, selling the stolen horse at Berwick-upon-Tweed, proceeded on foot to Cockburn's Path, and, hiring a horse there, rode to Dunbar, where having slept one night, he set out for Edinburgh in a postchaise.

At Edinburgh he pretended to be servant to a military officer, and persuaded a young woman who was servant at the inn where he lodged to admit him to a share of her bed. In the morning she discovered that

her box had been broken open, and her money, besides two gold rings bequeathed her by a relation, stolen thereout. She accused Thompson with the robbery, and threatened a prosecution; but was appeased upon his restoring the effects.

His next expedition was to Perth, where he engaged himself as servant to a military officer. His master being ordered into Yorkshire upon the recruiting service, Thompson accompanied him; but, thinking it unsafe to remain in a part of the country where he was well known, he stole a horse about eleven o'clock at night, and took the road to Nottingham. For this offence he was tried at the next assizes, and sentenced to die; but, interest being made in his favour, he received a pardon on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

As he behaved in a remarkably decent and regular manner, the keeper of the prison granted him many indulgences, which he determined to seize an opportunity of making use of to his own advantage; and, accordingly, observing that on some occasion the maid-servant was intrusted with the keys, he seized her by surprise, and, taking them from her, recovered his liberty.

Upon his escape from prison he proceeded to London, where he enlisted into a regiment then abroad, and was conducted to the Savoy; but, being soon after attacked by a fever, he was sent to an hospital. Being tolerably recovered in about

two months, he deserted, and, going to Rochester, enlisted into a regiment lying in that city. About five weeks after his arrival in Rochester he robbed the waiter of the house where he was quartered, and, again deserting, travelled to Hatfield in Hertfordshire, where he enlisted into a third regiment, from which he also deserted in about six weeks. He now went to Chichester; and, having there entered into his majesty's service as a marine, was ordered on board a ship lying at Portsmouth. In about two months he was ordered on shore, and quartered in Chichester, where he robbed his lodgings, and, having stolen a mare belonging to a farmer, rode towards the metropolis.

The farmer, having a value for the beast, hastened to London, expecting that she would be exposed for sale in Smithfield. He put up at the White Bear, in Basinghall Street, and there found both his mare and the man who had stolen her. Thompson, being taken before the lord-mayor, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey, where he was convicted, and sentenced to die.

When he was confined in the cells of Newgate he appeared to be struck with a consciousness of the enormity of his guilt. He constantly attended divine service in the chapel; and, when visited by the Ordinary, behaved in a manner that evinced the sincerity of his repentance.

Thompson suffered at Tyburn on the 24th of October, 1748.

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### JOHN YOUNG,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE subject of this narrative was born of a Protestant family at Belfast, in Ireland, and received a liberal education. At the usual time of life he was apprenticed to a

linen-draper residing in the town where he was born. Having served about three years, his master died; and, as the widow declined business, he engaged as clerk to a

wholesale dealer, whose goods were principally sent to the London market and Chester fair.

He remained with his employer till his arrival at manhood; but at length absconded, in consequence of one of his master's servant-maids proving with child by him. He intended to settle in Dublin; but in his way to that city he met with a recruiting party belonging to the fourth regiment of foot, who urged him to drink till he became intoxicated, and then prevailed upon him to enlist.

Young, being handsome in person and accomplished in manners, was soon distinguished by his officers, who, upon the first vacancy, promoted him to be a sergeant. He marched from Tournay to join the regiment at Ghent, in Flanders, and arrived but a few days preceding that on which was fought the terrible battle of Fontenoy. His behaviour in that action was greatly commended by his officers, who, upon the return of the regiment to Ghent, conferred upon him many instances of particular respect, and appointed him paymaster to the company to which he belonged.

The regiment in which Young was a sergeant was one of those ordered into Scotland for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, which broke out soon after the battle of Fontenoy; but, as a considerable loss of private men had been sustained, he was ordered to go upon the recruiting service to Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, and other places.

The recruits engaged by Young were paid the bounty-money without the least deduction, and he would not encourage them to spend any part of it in an extravagant or useless manner. In the space of four months he raised a hundred and fifty men; and it is

presumed that the strict integrity of his conduct greatly promoted his success. Upon joining his regiment in Scotland, his officers advanced him to the post of sergeant-major, as a reward for his services. At the battle of Falkirk he put several of the rebels to death with his halbert, and behaved in other respects with remarkable intrepidity.

Upon the command of the army being assumed by the Duke of Cumberland, the regiment to which Young belonged was ordered to march to the north. On account of the singular bravery they displayed at the battle of Culloden, and the great slaughter of men, this regiment was not ordered to return to Flanders, but permitted to remain in Scotland.

Upon tranquillity being re-established in the Highlands, the fourth regiment was appointed to perform duty in Edinburgh Castle, and Young was dispatched to Bristol upon a recruiting expedition. He enlisted a considerable number of men at Bristol, and, on his return to Scotland, his officers complimented him with a handsome present. He was now sent to raise recruits in Yorkshire; and, while at Sheffield, in that county, he engaged in a criminal intercourse with the wife of an innkeeper, who, when he was preparing to depart, secreted property to a considerable amount, and followed her lover to Scotland. In a short time the innkeeper came to Edinburgh in search of his wife, and complained in passionate terms of the cruel and treacherous treatment he had received. The nature of his connexion with the woman being made public, Young appeared to be greatly disconcerted whenever he met with persons to whom he supposed the matter had been communicated; but in justice to his character we must observe, that,

so far from encouraging the woman to rob her husband, he was entirely ignorant of every thing relating to that matter till her husband's arrival at Edinburgh. Notwithstanding the above affair, Young was still held in much esteem by his officers; and in a short time the regiment was ordered to proceed to the North, and remained in the royal barracks at Inverness for above a twelvemonth.

Young being both sergeant-major and paymaster, many notes on the bank of Scotland necessarily came into his possession. While looking over some of these notes in the guard-room, a man named Parker, whom he had enlisted in England, observed that, if he had a few tools, he could engrave a plate for counterfeiting the notes on the Edinburgh bank. Young seemed to give but little attention to what the other said; but took him to an alehouse on the following day, and requested an explanation as to the manner of executing the scheme he had suggested. Parker informed him that, besides engraving an exact resemblance of the letters and figures, he could form a machine for printing such notes as should not be known from those of the Scotch bank.

In short, Young hired a private apartment for Parker, and supplied him with every utensil necessary for carrying the iniquitous plan into effect; and, in a short time, some counterfeit notes were produced, bearing a near resemblance to the real ones. Upwards of six months elapsed before the fraud was detected.

Orders being issued for the regiment to march to England, Young determined to procure cash for as many notes as possible previously to his departure from Inverness, knowing that in the southern parts

the forgery would be liable to immediate detection. With this view he applied to Mr. Gordon, who was concerned in the stocking-manufactory at Aberdeen, and prevailed upon him to give sixty pounds in cash for notes expressing to be of the same value.

On his journey from Inverness, Mr. Gordon parted with several of the notes at different places; but, upon reaching Aberdeen, an advertisement in the newspapers, in the name of the governors of the bank at Edinburgh, convinced him that he had been deceived. In consequence of this Mr. Gordon wrote to the sheriff of Inverness, who immediately took Young into custody, and found three hundred notes, and the copper-plate from which they had been printed, in his possession. Parker was admitted an evidence for the crown, and Young was removed to Edinburgh for trial before the High Court of Justiciary. After a trial that lasted a whole day, he was pronounced to be guilty, and sentenced to suffer death.

While this malefactor was under confinement he would not consent to be visited by the clergy, though several, from motives of humanity, were desirous of using their endeavours to prepare him for eternity. He was informed by his fellow-prisoners that, if he could procrastinate his execution beyond the appointed time, his life would of necessity be preserved; for that the crown law of Scotland declared that condemned prisoners should be executed between two and four o'clock on the days expressed. Being ignorant of the law, the unhappy man was amused by this story, and hoped to escape punishment by the following means: he secured the strong iron door of the room wherein he was confined in



such a manner, that when the gaoler came, in order to conduct him to the place of execution, he could not gain admittance.

Upwards of fifty carpenters, smiths, masons, and other artificers, were sent for, to open a passage; but they all declined undertaking a business which they deemed to be impracticable, and were unanimously of opinion that an aperture could not be made in the wall without endangering the whole fabric.

Matters being thus circumstanced, the lord-provost and the rest of the magistrates assembled at the prison, and, after long debates, it was determined to form an opening to the room by breaking through the floor of that immediately above.

The opening being made, the prisoner leaped up, and, seizing a musket from one of the city guards, declared, with an oath, that, if any man attempted to molest him, he would immediately dash out his brains. Six of the soldiers, however, suddenly descended, and one of them received a terrible blow from the prisoner; but he was immediately after secured by the other five, and executed.

John Young underwent the sentence of the law in the Grass-

market of Edinburgh, about six o'clock on the evening of the 19th of December, 1748.

Young was not addicted to indulge himself in expensive pleasures; and we may suppose that his pay as a private soldier, added to the emoluments he derived from the posts of sergeant-major and paymaster to his regiment, would have proved equal to every reasonable gratification, especially in a country where the necessities and conveniences of life were to be procured with moderate expense.

It must be acknowledged that his seduction of his master's maid-servant and the innkeeper's wife were offences of a most heinous nature; but in other respects his character was unimpeached: he was highly respected by his officers, and universally esteemed by all who were acquainted with him; he was in the way to preferment, and would, in all probability, have made a distinguished figure in life, had he been contented to proceed by the gradual advances to fortune; but, from the hint given by Parker, he conceived the hopes of speedily amassing great riches, without considering that wealth unjustifiably obtained must necessarily prove the source of affliction to the possessor.

## JOHN WHITMORE AND JEREMIAH DAWES,

CONVICTED AND PUNISHED FOR SEDITION.

Soon after the rebellion was crushed great discontent was discovered in several private meetings, which, being of little import to the commonweal, were passed over, under the hopes that time would reconcile jarring opinions to the family on the throne: but it was little expected that the spark of sedition would be fanned into a flame among students at an univer-

sity; among men half-grown in body, and still weaker in mind.

That such was actually the case, however, we shall show; and to this end give, verbatim, the proclamation of the vice-chancellor of Oxford.

'At a meeting of the vice-chancellor, heads of houses, and proctors of the University of Oxford, on Monday, April 11, 1748:

'Whereas there have been lately some very tumultuous disturbances and outrages committed in the public streets of Oxford by young scholars of the university, particularly on the 23d of February last past, amounting to a notorious insult on his majesty's crown and government, and in utter contempt of the wholesome laws and discipline of this university, and the governors thereof: we, the vice-chancellor, heads of houses, and proctors, this day assembled, think it incumbent on us to make this public declaration of our sincere abhorrence and detestation of such factious and seditious practices, as also of our firm resolution to punish all offenders (of what state or quality soever they are) who shall be duly convicted thereof, according to the uttermost severity and rigour of our statutes.

'And whereas many of the disorders complained of have been chiefly and immediately owing to scholars having private entertainments and company at their chambers, which are generally attended with great intemperance and excess, and always with expense, that are both needless and hurtful: we therefore earnestly recommend it to all bursars, deans, censors, and tutors, to prevent, as much as in their power, this unstatutable and mischievous practice, and to oblige all persons to attend in the common hall at the usual hours of dinner and supper.

'And as these irregularities are too frequently practised (as we have reason to believe) at coffee-houses, cook-shops, and victualling-houses, all proctors and magistrates of the university are strictly required to be vigilant and careful in

visiting all such public houses and places of entertainment and idleness, and in duly punishing all young scholars whom they shall at any time find at such places; and likewise in laying a mulct on the masters or mistresses of such houses for receiving and entertaining such scholars, contrary to the known rules, orders, and statutes, of the university.

'Given under our hand the day and year above mentioned.

'J. PURNELL, Vice-Chancellor.'

In consequence of this proclamation several of these beardless stripplings of sedition were apprehended, and removed to the Court of King's Bench at Westminster, to take their trial before a jury of their country, and John Whitmore and Jeremiah Dawes were found guilty. Charles Luxmore, after a trial of eight hours, was acquitted.

On Monday, November 28, 1748, these two scholars were brought up to the bar of the Court of King's Bench to receive sentence, which was, 'To be fined five nobles each, to suffer two years' imprisonment in the King's Bench prison, and to find two sureties for their good behaviour for seven years, themselves to be bound in five hundred pounds, and their securities in two hundred and fifty pounds each; and that they immediately walk round Westminster Hall, with a label affixed to their foreheads, denoting their crime and sentence, and to ask pardon of the several Courts.'

They accordingly were each labelled on the forehead, and led round the Hall, stopping at each Court, to solicit pardon; and then sent so prison.

## USHER GAHAGAN AND TERENCE CONNER,

EXECUTED FOR DIMINISHING THE CURRENT COIN OF THE REALM.

THE county of Westmeath, in Ireland, gave birth to Usher Gahagan, who having, by the indulgence of his parents, received the advantage of a liberal education, was sent to Trinity College, Dublin, whence he was removed to one of the Inns of Court, in the hope of his rising in the law, in which several of his relations had become eminent.

He had been instructed by his parents in the Protestant religion; but, falling into company with some priests of the Romish persuasion, they converted him to their faith, which was a principal obstacle to his future advancement in life; for as no gentleman can be admitted a counsellor-at-law without taking the oaths of supremacy and abjuration, and as Mr. Gahagan's new faith prevented his complying with these terms, he declined any further prosecution of his legal studies.

His parents and other relations were greatly offended with his conduct; and those who had particularly engaged themselves for the advancement of his fortune forbade him to visit them, through indignation at what they conceived the impropriety of his behaviour.

Thus reduced to an incapacity of supporting himself, he sought to relieve his circumstances by a matrimonial scheme; and, having addressed the daughter of a gentleman, he obtained her in marriage, and received a good fortune with her; but, treating her with undeserved severity, she was compelled to return to the protection of her relations.

His conduct having now rendered him obnoxious to his acquaintance in Dublin, he quitted that city, and repaired to London, with a view of

supporting himself by his literary abilities.

On his arrival in the metropolis he made some connexions with the booksellers, and undertook to translate Pope's 'Essay on Man' into Latin; but, becoming connected with some women of abandoned character, he spent his time in a dissipated manner, and thus threw himself out of that employment which might have afforded him a decent support.

He now made an acquaintance with an Irishman named Hugh Coffey, and they agreed on a plan for the diminution of the current coin. At this time Gahagan had a lodger named Conner (whose case will be seen in the sequel of this account); and it being agreed to receive him as a partner in this iniquitous scheme, they procured proper tools; and, having collected a sum of money, they filed it and put it off; and, procuring more, filed that also, and passed it in the same manner.

Having continued this business some months, during which they had saved a sum of money, they went to the bank and got some Portugal pieces, under pretence that they were intended for exportation to Ireland. Thus they got money repeatedly at the bank; but at length one of the tellers, suspecting their business, communicated his suspicions to the governors, who directed him to drink with them, as the proper method to discover who they were and what was their employment.

In pursuance of this order he, on their next appearance, invited them to drink a glass of wine at the Crown tavern, near Cripple-gate; to which they readily agreed,

and met him after the hours of office.

When the circulation of the glass had sufficiently warmed them, Gahagan, with a degree of weakness that is altogether astonishing, informed the teller that he acquired considerable sums by filing gold, and even proposed that he should become a partner with them. The gentleman seemed to accede to the proposal, and, having learned where they lodged, acquainted the cashiers of the bank with what had passed.

On the following day Coffey was apprehended; but Gahagan and Conner, being suspicious of the danger of their situation, retired to a public-house, called Chalk Farm, a little way out of the road from London to Hampstead, where they carried their implements for filing: but, Coffey having been admitted an evidence, it was not long before the place of their retreat was known; on which they were apprehended, and lodged in Newgate.

Terence Conner was a native of Ireland, and had received a most liberal education. It is recorded of him that he was so perfectly well read in Roman history as to be able to turn to any part of it without the assistance of an index. He was, by birth, heir to a considerable fortune; but his father dying without a proper adjustment of his affairs, some intricate lawsuits were the consequence; so that the whole estate was only sufficient to discharge the demands of the gentlemen of the long robe.

Conner, being reduced in circumstances, came to London, and, becoming acquainted with Gahagan and Coffey, was concerned in diminishing the coin, as above mentioned.

On their trial the evidence of Coffey was positive; and, being supported by collateral proofs, the

jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction, the behaviour of these unhappy men was strictly proper for their circumstances: they were extremely devout, and apparently resigned to their fate; but, anxious to evade the ignominy that attended them, they did not neglect those means which they thought might have the remotest tendency to their preservation: in consequence of which Mr. Gahagan wrote the former, and Mr. Conner the latter, of the following copies of verses:—

*To his Royal Highness Prince George, Duke of Cornwall, and eldest Son to his Royal Highness Frederic Prince of Wales (afterwards King George the Third), on his acting the Part of Cato at Leicester House.*

—“Tuus jam regnat Apollo.” VIRG.

Hail! little Cato, taught to tread the stage,  
Awful as Cato of the Roman age;  
How vast the hopes of thy maturer years,  
When in the boy such manly power appears!

Say, what spectator but did pleas'd admire  
To hear thee talk with sage Catonic fire?  
A tender stripling of the royal blood  
Breathing his country's liberty and good!  
What rapture warm'd thy princely father's breast?

What joy thy sceptred grandsire then confess,

Beholding thee, a Tyro from the school,  
Foreshow the wisdom of thy future rule;  
And Ned, thy little Juba, play his part,  
Half-form'd by Nature in Bellona's art!

Well may we say, when Royalty thus deigns

To grace the stage, that now Apollo reigns,  
Whose tuneful handmaids should exult to see

Such regal honours done to them in thee;  
Nor less thy shade, O, Addison, rejoice  
To find that Cato made a Cato's choice.

Lo! Britain glories in thy years to trace  
A buskin'd hero of the Brunswick race;  
Her stage now trod (though, Collier, once thy scorn)

By destin'd monarchs, and high princes born:

Augusta, too, some king's allotted bride,  
Adorns her scenes, and gives an equal pride.



But, oh! when thou shalt once thy sceptre wield,  
And Edward shine dread leader of the field;

When thou a Cato's, he a Juba's task  
Perform in real action, not in masque;  
At home, when thou'lt thy country's good enhance.

While he abroad shall stem the pride of France;

When thou'lt establish Europe's wish'd repose,

Returning he the gates of Janus close;—  
Then, then Britannia may with reason boast,

Nor think her blood or treasure fruitless lost.

O, may she hail (but late) the glorious day,

When, exercising this imperial sway,  
Of sire and grandsire's virtues thou possest,

Shalt gently rule, and make thy people bless'd;

When harass'd Europe, rescued from alarms,

Shall owe her rest to George and Edward's arms.

Rous'd with the thought, and impotently vain,

I now would launch into a nobler strain;  
But see! the captive Muse forbids the lays,  
Unfit to stretch the merit I would praise.  
Such at whose heels no galling shackles ring

May raise the voice, and boldly touch the string;

Cramp'd hand and foot, while I in gaol must stay,

Dreading each hour the execution-day;  
Pent up in den, opprobrious alms to crave.  
No Delphic cell, ye gods! nor Sybil's cave;

Nor will my Pegasus obey the rod,  
With massy iron barbarously shod;  
Thrice I essay'd to force him up the height,  
And thrice the painful gyves restrain'd his flight.

So when a sickly snake attempts to creep,  
Or climb some slippery rock, or ditch's steep,

Scarce half her length advanc'd, she backward falls,

And in slow volumes languishingly crawls.

—  
*To her Grace the Duchess of Queensberry: a Poetical Address, by Terence Conner, in the Cells of Newgate.*

'Laturum misero te mihi rebar opem.'

OVID.

Thou great protectress of the Aonian strain,  
Support in each cotemporary reign;

Brightest devotress at the Delian shrine,  
Of sung and courted by the sacred Nine,  
If e'er thy kindred, of immortal fame,  
The Muses lov'd, nor scorn'd a poet's name;

If e'er thyself vouchsafed to touch the lyre,  
And joined with open voice the tuneful quire;

If on the canvass, to describe the face,  
With animated bloom and living grace,  
To draw the vernal flower, and, tinging, shape

The peach, the melon, and the ripen'd grape;

To mark each story, holy or profane,  
Move in the landscape, and to vision plain,  
If these, with courtly wit and eloquence,  
Be gifts Apollo did to thee dispense,  
(Which sure they are,) in charity regard  
The meanest of his sons, a captive bard;  
Far, far, alas! from home and native cline,

The first, perhaps, that did in Newgate rhyme;

The first, perhaps, beneath his dreadful doom,

That ever mounted the poetic loom.

O! born thyself of high Pierian blood,  
Boast of the times, nor yet more learn'd Disphan good,

lay thy bounty where a life's at stake,  
And save the wretched for the poet's sake;  
The poet pent in narrow darkling cell,  
With vagrants and bandittis forced to dwell;

In pond'rous gyves of iron rudely bound,  
A stone his pillow, and his bed the ground;  
One penny loaf the banquet of a day,  
And chilling water to dilute his clay;  
Broke every morning of his painful rest,  
The scorn of turnkeys, and the keeper's jest;

Sternly rebuk'd if he the least complains,  
And menac'd with a double load of chains.  
Thus day and night disconsolate I spend,  
Unpitied, and debarr'd of every friend;  
Deserted by the Muses, as by men,  
Save Elegeia's visits now and then;  
Daughter of grief, and ever-plaintive Muse,  
Taught only songs of sorrow to infuse.

Dire comfort! thankful yet am I, that she

Inspires these lines, O Queensberry! to thee.

Thou then, from infant years brought up at courts,

Directress of their household and their sports—

The brilliant grace of both the Georges' age,

In wit facetious, and in council sage—  
Allow, as heretofore, the same access,  
Pity this bard, and banish his distress;

Maintain the glory of thy former days,  
And intercede to save a son of Gay's ;\*  
Nor be it ever said, in British land,  
That a poor bard was mercilessly hang'd.

Gahagan, as we have already shown, was an excellent scholar. He was the editor of 'Brindley's beautiful edition of the Classics.' He translated Pope's 'Essay on Criticism' into Latin verse; and, while in prison, translated into the same language 'The Temple of Fame' and 'The Messiah;' which he dedicated to the Duke of Newcastle, then prime minister, in hopes of obtaining a pardon. Was it not, compassionate reader, a pity that such a life was not spared? A co-

temporary poet addressed to him the following lines:—

'Who without rapture can thy numbers read?

Who hear thy fate, and sorrow not succeed?  
Who not condole thee betwixt tear and hope?

Who not admire thee, thus translating Pope—

Translating Pope in never-dying lays,  
Bereft of books, of liberty, and ease—  
Translating Pope, beneath severest doom,  
In numbers worthy old Augustan Rome;  
Whose ablest sons might glory in thy strains,  
Though sung in massy, dire, incumb'ring chains?

These unfortunate gentlemen suffered at Tyburn on the 20th of February, 1749.

## THOMAS NEALE AND WILLIAM BOWEN,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THOMAS NEALE was a native of Denbigh, in North Wales, and trained to the business of husbandry; but, quitting the country while young, he entered on board a man of war; and soon became so remarkable for that kind of brutal bravery which is too often distinguished by the name of courage, that, when it was necessary to employ press-gangs, he was frequently put at their head, in which station he gave such proofs of an unrelenting disposition as seemed fully to justify the choice that had been made.

The proclamation of peace occasioning the discharge of many seamen, Neale was paid off; and, bringing his wages to London, he soon wasted his money in the most dissipated manner, and in the worst of company: and then had recourse to the dangerous practices of a footpad robber.

On a particular occasion he stole a tankard from an inn in Hert-

fordsshire, for which he was apprehended, and lodged in the county gaol: and, being tried at the next assizes, was capitally convicted; but obtained a pardon on the condition of transporting himself for seven years, through the interest of the late Duke of Cumberland.

Having given bail thus to transport himself, he entertained no thought of fulfilling the contract; but, immediately associating with Bowen and other villains, they committed a variety of robberies in the adjacencies of London.

William Bowen was a native of Londonderry, in Ireland. His parents, who kept an inn, and lived respectably, proposed that he should succeed them in their business; but an attachment to bad company led him astray from the paths of duty.

His father, dying just before he came of age, left him the inn, on the condition of his supporting his mother, a brother, and two young sisters; but the young man, deaf

\* The Duchess of Queensberry was the patroness of Gay, the poet.

to every prudent consideration, associated with people whose circumstances were much superior to his own, to the neglect of that business which would have supported the family.

Aware of the decay of his trade, and the consequent ruin that stared him in the face, he came over to London with all the cash he could secure, and fell into company with people who assisted him to spend his money; and, when that was gone, he entered on board a ship as a common sailor.

The seamen having received their wages, Bowen got into company with his old associates and some women of ill fame, with whom he spent to the last shilling, and then had recourse for support to the committing robberies in the neighborhood of London; particularly near Stepney and Mile End.

One of Bowen's companions being apprehended for picking pockets, he and others joined to rescue him as the peace-officers were conveying him to Newgate in a coach.

The public being alarmed by this daring rescue, Bowen did not think it safe to stay in London; and, having heard that his brother, then a seaman, was at Liverpool, went thither in search of him: but, on his arrival, he learnt that, having received a large sum as prize-money, he had sailed to see his friends in Ireland.

Bowen immediately wrote to Londonderry; but, not having a letter in return, he came to the metropolis in the most distressed circumstances; when, going to a house where he had formerly lodged, he was informed that Neale had been to inquire for him; and on the following day Neale came to see him, in company with a man named Vincent.

After drinking together, Neale said to Bowen, 'Come and take a ride with me.' Bowen said he had no money; but the other told him that would soon be procured. On this Neale went out to borrow him a pair of boots; while Bowen went with Vincent to his lodgings, where the latter gave him a hanger and a pair of pistols, which Bowen concealed under a great coat; and then all the parties met at an alehouse in Southwark, whence they went to an inn, and hired horses, on the pretence of going to Gravesend; instead of which they went towards Kingston, where Vincent had a relation who belonged to the Oxford Blues.

In their way they purchased a whip for Bowen, and loaded their pistols. On their arrival at Kingston they went to a public house; and, sending for Vincent's kinsman, they all dined together, and drank themselves into a state of perfect intoxication.

Having paid their reckoning, they mounted their horses, determined on the commission of robbery; and, meeting a gentleman named Ryley, Bowen pulled him from his horse, and in the same instant quitted his own. Mr. Ryley ran off; but Bowen, following him, threw him down, and, kneeling on his breast, the other entreated that he would not hurt him. Bowen threatened his instant destruction if he did not quietly submit; and, having robbed him of his watch and money, bade him run after his horse, which had quitted the place on Neale's whipping him; and, in the interim, Vincent watched, lest any person should come up to interrupt them.

The highwaymen now rode towards London, and, when they came near Wandsworth, determined

to go to Fulham, and thence to town by the way of Hyde-park Corner. Having divided the booty (except a thirty-six shilling piece, which Bowen secreted) at the Greyhound inn, near Piccadilly, they supped and slept at that house.

In the morning they told the landlord that they wanted to go towards Highgate, but were not well acquainted with the road. As they had been good customers, the landlord begged to treat them with half a pint of rum, and then went a little way with them, to show them the nearest road.

Having arrived at Highgate, they drank at that place, and then determined to proceed to Barnet, at which place they put up their horses, and called for rum and water, of which they swallowed such quantities that Vincent and Bowen fell fast asleep.

In the mean time Neale endeavored to secrete a silver pint mug; but, being detected in the attempt, he was taken before a magistrate; and, loaded pistols being found on him, orders were given that his companions should likewise be taken into custody; and all of them were lodged in the county gaol.

At the next assizes an order was made for their discharge (as nothing appeared against them) on their giving security for their good behaviour. For this purpose they wrote to London to procure bail; but Mr. Ryley, hearing that three men of doubtful character were in the gaol of Hertford, went thither, and immediately knew that they were the parties by whom he had been robbed.

Hereupon a detainer was lodged against them, and they were removed for trial at the Surrey assizes, previous to the holding of

which Vincent was admitted an evidence for the crown. His testimony corroborating that of Mr. Ryley, Neale and Bowen were found guilty, and sentenced to die.

Being lodged in the New Gaol, Southwark, Bowen was taken ill, and continued so till the time of his execution. He behaved with some degree of resignation to his fate; but was violent in his exclamations against Vincent, on account of his turning evidence.

Neale evinced no concern on account of his unhappy situation, but behaved in a manner more hardened than language can express. At the place of execution he paid no regard to the devotions, but laughed at the populace while he played with the rope which was to put a period to his life. After the cap was drawn over his face he put it up again, and addressed the people in the following shocking terms: 'I shall very soon see my Lord Balmorino. He was a very good friend of mine: so that is what I had to say, and damn you all together.' He then drew the cap over his eyes, and was launched into eternity.

These men were hanged at Kennington Common on the 22d of August, 1749.

Without adverting to the crime for which these men suffered, it is impossible to dismiss this story, and not take notice of the horrid and unexampled manner in which Neale quitted the world. Shocking as the practice of swearing is at all times, a curse denounced on our neighbour at the moment of quitting life has something in it too dreadful even to be thought of. It is but Christian charity to hope that this man was in a state of frenzy when he pronounced his last words; for what, otherwise, can we think of the fate of the wretch who could



thus quit this mortal being? The most hardened are generally serious on so dreadful an occasion; and, indeed, it would be doubly dreadful if they were not.

We know that the Divine Author of our being is a God of

infinite mercy; but we should remember also that he is a God of justice!

'Henceforth let Honour's path be trod,  
Nor villains seek in vain  
To mock the sacred laws of God,  
And give their neighbours pain.'



*The Smugglers murdering Chater at Harris's Well.*

**BENJAMIN TAPNER, JOHN COBBY, JOHN HAMMOND,  
WILLIAM JACKSON, WILLIAM CARTER, RICHARD  
MILLS THE ELDER, AND RICHARD MILLS THE  
YOUNGER (FATHER AND SON),**

**EXECUTED FOR MURDER.**

— 'Oh! what are these?

Death's ministers, not men, who thus deal death

Inhumanly to man, and multiply  
Ten thousand fold the sin of him who slew  
His brother; for of whom such massacre  
Make they, but of their brethren—men of men?

PARADISE LOST.

WHILE London and its environs were, about this time, beset with gangs of highway men, pickpockets, and swindlers, the country was infested with leagues of villains not

less dangerous, and much more cruel. These were fellows who preyed upon the public by defrauding the revenue, in landing goods without a regular entry and payment of the duty. All mercantile nations have regulations of this nature; and indeed they are, in some measure, necessary for the regulation and protection of commerce, which in Britain is a main spring of the commouweal.

The smugglers on the sea-coast formerly went in parties sufficiently strong to oppose the officers of the excise, and sometimes even to menace parties of the military sent to apprehend them. Whenever a custom-house officer unfortunately fell into their hands, he was barbarously tortured, and often murdered. A more cruel murder than this we are about to detail is not to be found in these volumes; and we much question whether the judicial annals of Europe can furnish any more diabolical.

The two unfortunate sufferers who were murdered by this desperate gang were William Galley the elder, a custom-house officer of Southampton, and Daniel Chater, a shoemaker of Fording-bridge. These men having been sent to give information respecting some circumstances attending the daring burglary at the custom-house at Poole, and not returning to their respective homes, a suspicion arose that they had been waylaid and murdered by the smugglers, and a search for them was therefore instituted.

Those employed for this purpose, after every inquiry, could hear no certain tidings of them, fear of the smugglers' resentment silencing such inhabitants on the road over which they had carried the unfortunate men as were not in connexion with them. At length a Mr. Stone, following his hounds, came to a spot which appeared to have been dug not long before, and, from the publicity of the circumstance of the men above mentioned being missed, he conjectured that there they might have been buried, and thereof gave immediate information. Upon digging there, nearly seven feet in the earth, the remains of Galley were found, but in so putrid a state as not to be

known, except by the clothes. The search after Chater was now pursued with redoubled vigilance, and his body was found in a well (six miles distant from the burial-place of Galley) in Harris's Wood, near Lady Holt Park, with a quantity of stones, wooden rails, and earth, upon it.

At a special commission held at Chichester, on the 16th of January, 1749, Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond, William Carter, Richard Mills the elder, and Richard Mills the younger, were indicted for the murder of Daniel Chater; the three first as principals, and the others as accessories before the fact: and William Jackson and William Carter were indicted for the murder of William Galley.

Benjamin Tapner was a native of Aldington, in Sussex, and worked for some time as a bricklayer; but, being of an idle disposition, he soon quitted his business, and associated with a gang of smugglers, who had rendered themselves formidable to the neighborhood by their lawless depredations.

John Cobby was an illiterate country fellow, the son of James Cobby, of the county of Sussex, labourer, and joined the smugglers a little time before he was thirty years of age.

John Hammond was a labouring man, born at Berstead, in Sussex, and had been a smuggler some time before he was apprehended for the above-mentioned murders, which was when he was almost forty years old.

William Jackson was a native of Hampshire, and had a wife and large family. He was brought up to the business of husbandry; but the hope of acquiring more money in an easier way induced him to engage with the smugglers, which at length ended in his ruin.

William Carter, of Rowland's Castle, in Hampshire, was the son of William Carter, of Eastmean, in the same county, thatcher. He was about the age of thirty-nine, and had practised smuggling a considerable time before the perpetration of the fact which led to his destruction.

Richard Mills, the elder, was a native of Trotton, in Sussex, and had been a horse-dealer by profession; but it is said that a failure in that business induced him to commence smuggler; and he had been long enough in that illicit practice to become one of the most hardened of the gang.

Richard Mills, the younger, lived at Stedham, in Sussex, and for some time followed his father's profession of horse-dealing; but unfortunately making a connexion with the smugglers, he came to the same ignominious end as his companions, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.

The two men, Galley and Chater, were proceeding on Sunday, Feb. 14, 1748, to Major Battine, a justice of the peace, at Stanstead, in Sussex, with a letter written by Mr. Shearer, collector of the customs at Southampton, requesting him to take an examination of Chater concerning one Diamond, or Dymar, who was committed to Chichester gaol on suspicion of being one who broke the king's warehouse at Poole. Chater was engaged to give evidence, but with some reluctance, declaring that he saw Diamond, and shook hands with him, who, with many others, was coming from Poole, loaded with tea, of which he threw him a bag. Having passed Havant, and come to the New Inn, at Leigh, they inquired their way, when George Austin, his brother, and brother-in-law, said that they were going the same road, and would accompany them to Rowland's

Castle, where they might get better directions, it being just by the major's residence.

A little before noon they came to the White Hart, at Rowland's Castle, kept by Elizabeth Payne, widow, who had two sons, blacksmiths, in the same village. After some talk she told George Austin, privately, she was afraid that these two strangers were come to hurt the smugglers. He said, 'No, sure; they were only carrying a letter to Major Battine.' Upon this she sent one of her sons for William Jackson and William Carter, who lived near her house. Meanwhile Chater and Galley wanted to be going, and asked for their horses; but she told them that the major was not then at home, which, indeed, was true.

As soon as Jackson and Carter came, she told them her suspicions, with the circumstance of the letter. Soon after she advised George Austin to go away, lest he should come to some harm; he did so, leaving his brothers.

Payne's other son went and fetched in William Steele, Samuel Downer, otherwise Little Samuel, Edmund Richards, and Henry Sheerman, otherwise Little Harry, all smugglers, belonging to the same gang.

After they had drank a little while, Carter, who had some knowledge of Chater, called him into the yard, and asked him where Diamond was. Chater said he believed he was in custody, and that he was going to appear against him, which he was sorry for, but could not help it. Galley came into the yard to them, and, asking Chater why he would stay there, Jackson, who followed him, said, with a horrid imprecation, 'What is that to you?' and immediately struck him a blow in the face, which knocked him down, and set



his nose and mouth bleeding. Soon after they all came into the house, when Jackson, reviling Galley, offered to strike him again, but one of the Paynes interposed.—Galley and Chater now began to be very uneasy, and wanted to be going; but Jackson, Carter, and the rest of them, persuading them to stay and drink more rum, and make it up, (for they were sorry for what had happened,) they sat down again; Austin and his brother-in-law being present. Jackson and Carter desired to see the letter, but they refused to show it. The smugglers then drank about plentifully, and made Galley and Chater fuddled; afterwards persuading them to lie down on a bed, which they did, and fell asleep: the letter was then taken away, read, and, the substance of it greatly exasperating them, it was destroyed.

One John Royce, a smuggler, now came in; and Jackson and Carter told him the contents of the letter, and that they had got the old rogue, the shoemaker of Fording-bridge, who was going to inform against John Diamond, the shepherd, then in custody at Chichester. Here William Steele proposed to take them both to a well, about two hundred yards from the house, and to murder and throw them in.

This proposal was not taken, as they had been seen in their company by the Austins, Mr. Garnet, and one Mr. Jenks, who was newly come into the house to drink. It was next proposed to send them to France; but that was objected against, as there was a possibility of their coming over again. Jackson's and Carter's wives, being present, cried out 'Hang the dogs, for they come here to hang you!' It was then proposed and agreed to keep them confined till they could know Diamond's fate, and, whatever it was, to treat these in the

same manner; and each to allow threepence a week towards keeping them.

Galley and Chater continuing asleep, Jackson went in, and began the first scene of cruelty; for, having put on his spurs, he got upon the bed, and spurred their foreheads, to wake them, and afterwards whipped them with a horse-whip, so that when they came out they were both bleeding. The abovesaid smugglers then took them out of the house; but Richards returned with a pistol, and swore he would shoot any person who should mention what had passed.

Meanwhile the rest put Galley and Chater on one horse, tied their legs under the horse's belly, and then tied the legs of both together. They now set forward, all but Royce, who had no horse. They had not gone above two hundred yards before Jackson called out 'Whip 'em, cut 'em, slash 'em, damn 'em!' upon which all began to whip except Steele, who led the horse, the roads being very bad. They whipped them for half a mile, till they came to Woodash, where they fell off, with their heads under the horse's belly; and their legs, which were tied, appeared over the horse's back. Their tormentors soon set them upright again, and continued whipping them over the head, face, shoulders, &c. till they came to Dean, upwards of half a mile farther: here they both fell again as before, with their heads under the horse's belly, which were struck at every step by the horse's hoofs.

Upon placing them again in the saddle, they found them so weak that they could not sit; upon which they separated them, and put Galley before Steele, and Chater before Little Sam; and then whipped Galley so severely, that, the lashes coming upon Steele, at his desire



they desisted. They then went to Harris's well, near Lady Holt Park, where they took Galley off the horse, and threatened to throw him into the well: upon which he desired them to dispatch him at once, and put an end to his misery. 'No,' says Jackson, cursing, 'if that's the case, we have more to say to you;' then put him on a horse again, and whipped him over the Downs, till he was so weak that he fell off; when they laid him across the saddle, with his breast downwards, and Little Sam got up behind him; and as they went on he squeezed Galley's testicles so, that he groaned with the agony, and tumbled off. Being then put on astride, Richards got up behind him; but soon the poor man cried out 'I fall, I fall, I fall!' and Richards, pushing him, said, 'Fall and be damned!' Upon which he fell down and expired; and the villains, taking up the body, laid it again on the horse, and proposed to go to some proper place where Chater might be concealed till they heard the fate of Diamond.

Jackson and Carter called at one Pescod's house, desiring admittance for two sick men; but he absolutely refused it.

Being now one o'clock in the morning, they agreed to go to one Scardefield's, at the Red Lion, at Rake, which was not far. Here Carter and Jackson got admittance, after many refusals. While Scardefield went to draw liquor, he heard more company come in; but, though they refused to admit him into the room, he saw one man stand up very bloody, and another lie as dead. They said they had engaged some officers, lost their tea, and several of them were wounded, if not killed.

Jackson and Little Harry now carried Chater down to Old Mills's,

which was not far off, and chained him in a turf-house; and Little Harry staying to watch him, Jackson returned again to the company. After they had drank gin and rum they all went out, taking the body of Galley with them. Carter compelled Scardefield to show them a place before used to bury smuggled tea, and to lend them spades, and a candle and lantern: there they began to dig, and, it being very cold, he helped to make a hole, where they buried 'something that lay across a horse like a dead man.'

They continued at Scardefield's, drinking, all that day, and in the night went to their own homes, in order to be seen on Tuesday, agreeing to meet again on Thursday at the same house, and bring more of their associates. They met accordingly, and brought old Richard Mills, and his sons Richard and John, Thomas Stringer, John Cobby, Benjamin Tapner, and John Hammond, who, with the former, made fourteen. They consulted now what was to be done with Chater;—it was unanimously agreed that he must be destroyed. Richard Mills, junior, proposed to load a gun, clap the muzzle to his head, tie a long string to the trigger, then all to pull it, that all might be equally guilty of his murder. This was rejected, because it would put him out of his pain too soon; and at length they came to a resolution to carry him up to Harris's well, which was not far off, and to throw him in.

All this while Chater was in the utmost horror and misery, being visited by one or other of them, who abused him both with words and blows. At last they all came, and, Tapner and Cobby going into the turf-house, the former pulled out a clasp-knife, and said, with a great oath, 'Down on your knees,

and go to prayers, for with this knife I'll be your butcher!' The poor man knelt down; and, as he was at prayers, Cobby kicked him, calling him 'informing villain.' Chater asking what they had done with Mr. Galley, Tapner, slashing the knife across his eyes, almost cut them out, and the gristle of his nose quite through: he bore it patiently, believing they were putting an end to his misery. Accordingly Tapner struck at him again, and made a deep cut in his forehead. Upon this old Mills said, 'Do not murder him here, but somewhere else.' Accordingly they placed him upon a horse, and all set out together for Harris's well, except Mills and his sons, they having no horses ready, and saying, in excuse, 'That there were enough without them to murder one man.' All the way Tapner whipped him till the blood came; and then swore that, if he blooded the saddle, he would torture him the more! which, as he could not stop his wounds from bleeding, was an incredible instance of barbarity.

When they were come within two hundred yards of the well, Jackson and Carter stopped, saying to Tapner, Cobby, Stringer, Steele, and Hammond, 'Go on and do your duty on Chater, as we have ours upon Galley.' In the dead of the night of the 18th they brought him to the well, which was nearly thirty feet deep, but dry, and paled close round. Tapner having fastened a noose round Chater's neck, they bade him get over the pales to the well. He was going through a broken place; but though he was covered with blood, and fainting with the anguish of his wounds, they forced him to climb up, having the rope about his neck, one end of which being tied to the pales, they pushed him into the well; but,

the rope being short, he hung no farther within it than his thighs, and, leaning against the edge, he hung above a quarter of an hour, and was not strangled. They then untied him, and threw him head foremost into the well. They tarried some time, and, hearing him groan, they concluded to go to one William Comleah's, a gardener, to borrow a rope and ladder, saying they wanted to relieve one of their companions who had fallen into Harris's well. He said they might take them; but they could not manage the ladder, in their confusion, it being a long one.

They then returned to the well; and, still hearing him groan, and fearful that the sound thereof might lead to a discovery, the place being near the road, they threw upon him some of the rails and gateposts fixed about the well; also great stones; when, finding him silent, they left him.

Their next consultation was how to dispose of their horses; when they killed Galley's, which was grey, and, taking his hide off, cut it into small pieces, and hid them so as to prevent any discovery; but a bay horse that Chater had rode on got from them.

On their return home these execrable murderers stopped at the house of one of their acquaintance to drink, where they were hardened enough to boast of the outrage they had committed, and even spoke of it as a circumstance that merited praise.

After a long and diligent search for the perpetrators of these crimes, some of the smugglers were taken up on suspicion, and, being examined in presence of the commissioners of the customs, were admitted evidences for the crown, on discovering all they knew of the horrid transaction.

In consequence hereof the pri-

soners were brought to trial at the time and place above mentioned; when Sir Michael Foster presided in Court.

The judge's charge to the grand jury was full of good sense, and highly reprobated the practice of smuggling, by which the fair trader is defrauded, and the revenue greatly injured.

When the trial came on, the evidence was very full and circumstantial against the prisoners; and the jury, after being out of Court about a quarter of an hour, brought in a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners: whereupon the judge pronounced sentence on the convicts in one of the most pathetic addresses that was ever heard; representing the enormity of their crime, and exhorting them to make immediate preparation for the awful fate that awaited them; adding, 'Christian charity obliges me to tell you that your time in this world will be very short.'

The heinousness of the crime of which these men had been convicted rendering it necessary that their punishment should be exemplary, the judge ordered that they should be executed on the following day; and the sentence was accordingly carried into execution against all but Jackson, who died in prison on the evening that he was condemned. They were attended by two ministers; and all, except Mills and his son, (who took no notice of each other, and thought themselves not guilty because they were not present at the finishing of the inhuman murder,) showed great marks of penitence. Tapner and Carter gave good advice to the spectators, and desired diligence might be used to apprehend Richards, whom they charged as the cause of their being brought to this wretched end. Young Mills smiled several times

at the executioner, who was a discharged marine, and, having ropes too short for some of them, was puzzled to fit them. Old Mills, being forced to stand tip-toe to reach the halter, desired that he might not be hanged by inches. The Mills's were so rejoiced at being told that they were not to be hanged in chains after execution, that death seemed to excite in them no terror; while Jackson was so struck with horror at being measured for his irons, that he soon expired.

They were hanged at Chichester on the 18th of January, 1749, amidst such a concourse of spectators as is seldom seen on occasions of a public execution.

Carter was hung in chains near Rake, in Sussex; Tapner on Rook's Hill, near Chichester; and Cobby and Hammond at Cesley Isle, on the beach where they sometimes landed their smuggled goods, and where they could be seen at a great distance east and west.

Jackson had lived some years a Roman Catholic; and, from the following popish relic found in his pocket, there is little doubt but he died such, as far as such a scoundrel could be said to belong to any religion:

'Sancti tres reges,  
Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,  
Orate pro nobis, nunc et in hora  
Mortis nostræ.

Ces billets ont touché aux trois  
têtes de

S. S. Rois a Cologne.

Ils sont pour des voyageurs, contre  
les malheurs de chemins, maux  
de tête, mal caduque, fièvres,  
socellerie, toute sorte de  
malice, et mort  
subite.'

The English of which is,

'Ye three holy kings,



Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,  
Pray for us now, and in the hour  
of death.

These papers have touched the  
three heads of

The holy kings of Cologne.

They are to preserve travellers from  
accidents on the road, head-achs,  
falling sickness, fevers, witch-  
craft, all kinds of mischief,  
and sudden death.'

The body of the above-men-  
tioned Jackson was thrown into a  
hole near the place of execution;  
as were those of Mills, the father  
and son, who had no friends to take  
them away: and at a small dis-  
tance from this spot is erected a  
stone, on which is the following  
inscription:

'Near this place was buried the  
body of William Jackson, who,  
upon a special commission of Oyer  
and Terminer, held at Chichester  
on the 16th day of January, 1748-9,  
was, with William Carter, attainted  
for the murder of William Galley,  
custom-house officer; and who  
likewise was, together with Benja-  
min Tapner, John Cobby, John

Hammond, Richard Mills the elder,  
Richard Mills the younger, his son,  
attainted for the murder of Daniel  
Chater; but, dying in a few hours  
after sentence of death was pro-  
nounced upon him, he thereby es-  
caped the punishment which the  
heinousness of his complicated  
crimes deserved, and which was,  
the next day, most justly inflicted  
upon his accomplices.

'As a memorial to posterity, and a  
warning to this and succeed-  
ing generations,  
This stone is erected,  
A. D. 1749.'

To comment upon these odious  
and loathsome transactions is im-  
possible; the imagination is glad  
to escape from scenes of such unri-  
valled atrocity and horror. We  
would rather contemplate the  
wretched victims of undeserved  
ferocity at length relieved by the  
friendly hand of Death; while the  
still more wretched victims of their  
own evil passions are, by the me-  
morial stone above described, held  
up by name to the scorn and de-  
testation of posterity.

### THOMAS KINGSMILL, WILLIAM FAIRALL, AND RICHARD PERIN,

EXECUTED FOR BREAKING OPEN THE CUSTOM-HOUSE AT POOLE.

It may not be improper to pre-  
mise that these men were a part of  
that infamous gang of smugglers,  
several of whom murdered Galley  
and Chater, the custom-house offi-  
cers, as recorded in the preceding  
pages of this work. These mis-  
creants were so hardened and daring  
in their villainies, that the honest in-  
habitants on and near the coasts of  
Hampshire, Kent, and Sussex, lived  
in perpetual apprehension.

Before we relate the particulars  
of the fact for which they suffered  
we will give such an account of the

parties themselves as we have been  
able to procure.

Kingsmill was a native of Good-  
hurst, in Kent, and had passed some  
part of his life as a husbandman;  
but, having associated with the  
smugglers, he made no scruple of  
entering into the most hazardous  
enterprises, and became so distin-  
guished for his ferocious disposition,  
that he was chosen captain of the  
gang; an *honour* of which he was  
so proud that he sought every op-  
portunity of exhibiting specimens  
of his courage, and put himself



foremost in every service of danger.

Fairall was a native of Horsendown Green, in Kent, and the son of poor parents, who were unable either to educate him, or to give him any regular employment by which he might obtain a livelihood. He began to associate with the smugglers while quite a boy, and was frequently employed by them to hold their horses; and, when he grew up to man's estate, was admitted as one of the fraternity. He was so remarkable for his brutal courage that it was not thought safe to offend him.

Having been taken into custody, and lodged in the new gaol, Southwark, he made his escape from thence, and vowed vengeance against the magistrate who had granted the warrant for his apprehension; and, in consequence hereof, he, with Kingsmill and others of the gang, laid wait for the gentleman one morning when he left his house; but, not meeting with him then, they hid themselves under his park wall till his usual time of returning in the evening; but it happened that, on his return, he heard the voices of men, and, the night being very dark, he turned his horse and went into his house by a private door, by which he avoided the dangerous snare that was laid for him.

Perin was a native of Chichester, in Sussex. Having served his time to a carpenter, he practised some years as a master, and was successful in trade: but a stroke of the palsy depriving him of the use of his right hand, he became connected with the smugglers, on whose behalf he used to sail to the coast of France, and purchase goods, which he brought to England, and in this capacity proved very serviceable to the gang.

It is evident that these men must

have greatly injured the revenue and the fair trader; for they had a number of warehouses, in different parts of Sussex, for the concealment of their goods; and kept not less than fifty horses, some of which they sent loaded to London, and others to the fairs round the country.

Perin, being in France in the year 1747, bought a large quantity of goods, which he loaded on board a cutter, with a view to run them on the coast of Sussex: but, as several smuggling vessels were expected at this juncture, Captain Johnson, who commanded a cutter in the government service, received orders to sail in search of them.

In consequence hereof he sailed from Poole, and took the smuggling cutter above mentioned on the following day; but Perin and his accomplices escaped by taking to their boat. Captain Johnson found the cargo to consist of brandy and tea to a very large amount, which he carried safe into the harbour of Poole.

Soon after this transaction, which happened in the month of September, the whole body of smugglers assembled in Charlton Park, to consult if there was any possibility of recovering the goods of which they had thus been deprived. After many schemes had been proposed and rejected, Perin recommended that they should go in a body, armed, and break open the custom-house at Poole; and this proposal being acceded to, a paper was drawn up, by way of bond, that they should support each other; and this was signed by all the parties.

This agreement, which was filled with dreadful curses on each other in case of failure to execute it faithfully, was signed on the 6th of October: having provided themselves

with swords and fire-arms, they met on the following day; and, having concealed themselves in a wood till the evening, they proceeded towards Poole, where they arrived about eleven at night.

As soon as they got thither, they sent Willis and Stringer, two of the gang, to observe if there were any persons watching near the custom-house. Willis soon came back, and informed them that he thought it would not be safe to make the attempt, as a sloop of war lay opposite the quay, so that she could point her guns against the door of the custom-house. On this the body of the smugglers were for desisting from the enterprise; when Kingsmill and Fairall addressed them, saying, 'If you will not do it, we will do it ourselves;' but these words were no sooner spoken than Stringer came back, and told them that it would be impossible for the sloop to bring her guns to bear on account of the ebb tide.

Animated by this intelligence, they rode to the sea-coast, where Perin and another of the gang took care of their horses, while the main body of them went back to the custom-house; in their way to which meeting with a boy, they took him with them, to prevent his alarming the inhabitants.

Having forced the door open with hatchets and other instruments, they carried off the smuggled goods, with which they loaded their horses; and, travelling all night, stopped in the morning at a place named Farding-bridge.

The number of smugglers were thirty, and their horses thirty-one. Continuing their journey to a place named Brook, they divided their booty into equal shares, and then departed, each to his own house.

This daring transaction being represented to the secretary of state,

King George the Second gave orders for issuing a proclamation, with a reward for the apprehension of the offenders; yet it was a considerable time before any of them were taken into custody, some of them being concerned in the murder of Chater and Galley, of which we have already given an account, and others escaping to France.

At length two of the smugglers, who had been evidences against those hanged at Chichester, gave intelligence of the usual place of meeting of the others; in consequence of which Fairall, Kingsmill, Perin, and another, named Glover, were taken into custody, and conducted to Newgate.

When they were brought to trial, the evidences, whose names were Royce and Steele, confirmed the particulars which we have above recited; in consequence of which the prisoners, who could not disprove the testimony, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but the jury recommended Glover as an object of the royal clemency.

Fairall behaved most insolently on his trial, and threatened one of the witnesses who swore against him. After conviction Glover exhibited every proof of penitence; but the rest were totally hardened in their guilt, and insisted that they had not been guilty of any robbery, because they only took goods that had once belonged to them.

Orders were given that Fairall and Kingsmill should be hung in chains; but it was permitted that the body of Perin should be delivered to his friends: and the latter lamenting the fate of his associates, Fairall said, 'We shall be hanging up in the sweet air when you are rotting in your grave;' so hardened and unfeeling was the heart of this man.

Their friends being permitted to see them on the night before they suffered, a pardon was brought for Glover while they were in discourse together, and a few days afterwards he obtained his liberty. Fairall kept smoking with his acquaintance till he was ordered by the keeper to retire to his cell, a circumstance that much enraged him; and on which he exclaimed, 'Why in such a hurry? Cannot you let me stay a little longer with my friends? I shall not be able to drink with them to-morrow night.'

On the following day Perin was carried to the place of execution in a mourning-coach; as were the two others in a cart, with a guard of horse and foot guards. The behaviour of Fairall and Kingsmill was remarkably undaunted; but all of them joined in devotion with the Ordinary of Newgate when they came to the fatal tree.

These malefactors suffered at Tyburn, April 26, 1749; and the bodies of Kingsmill and Fairall were hung in chains in the county of Kent.

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### BRIAN SEYMOUR, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

BRIAN SEYMOUR was born at Waterford, in Ireland; and his father having served in the army many years, and been at length promoted to the post of a right-hand man, or, in a more military phrase, made a corporal, the son must also

'Seek for honour even in the cannon's mouth.'

He enlisted in the sixth regiment of foot, and, soon afterwards embarking for Flanders, had a share in the memorable battle of Fontenoy.

The rebellion in 1745 occasioned his being sent to England, when he served under General Wade, who then commanded in Yorkshire; but, marching thence to Newcastle, Seymour had there a quarrel with a soldier respecting a woman of ill fame; and, a duel ensuing, his antagonist was killed: but the troublesome situation of affairs induced the general to grant Seymour a free pardon, without a minute scrutiny into his conduct.

Proceeding to Scotland, this man was present at the battle of Culloden, where he behaved with singular courage; but the regiment in

which he served, having been greatly injured, was ordered into winter quarters at Edinburgh, where the indulgence of his irregular passions gave rise to the crime which cost him his life.

At this time it was customary for some of the ministers of the church of Scotland, who were out of employment, to marry people at alehouses, in the same manner that the Fleet marriages were conducted in London. Sometimes people of fortune thought it prudent to apply to these marriage-brokers; but, as their chief business lay among the lower ranks of people, they were deridingly called by the name of 'Buckle the Beggars.'

Most of these marriages were solemnized at public houses in the Cannongate; and Seymour happening to be present there when a couple came to be married, and no priest present, he whispered the landlady, that if she would procure him a suit of black he would officiate as the parson. The woman, unwilling to lose a customer, procured the clothes, and Seymour, being dressed in them, went into the room where the young couple



waited, assuming the grave deportment of a real clergyman.

The lady who was to be married hinting that she did not think he was a minister, he solemnly averred that he was, and the marriage took place accordingly.

Before ten o'clock at night Seymour was obliged to return to the barracks in the Castle; but by this time he was so much intoxicated, that he was prepared to affront every one he met. When he came to the Lawn-market, he ran against a gentleman's servant named Johnson, who, being irritated, struck Seymour a blow on the face; on which the latter drew his sword, and stabbed Johnson, so that he instantly died; when the murderer put up his sword, and proceeded towards the Castle. A shoemaker, named Young, having observed what had passed, followed Seymour to the gate of the Castle; but the clock striking ten at that instant, the drawbridge was pulled up, so that Young could not be admitted for that night.

On the following morning Young went to the Lord Justice Clerk, and, informing him of what he knew of the transaction, offered his assist-

ance in discovering the murderer; on which his lordship ordered an officer to attend him, and directed the governor to let him have a sight of all the soldiers.

At ten o'clock the men were drawn up on the parade, and Young, walking round the lines, fixed on Seymour as the man who had committed the murder; whereupon he was delivered up, to abide the determination of the laws.

On the trial Young positively swore to the identity of the offender; and other evidence arising to prove that he was the party, he was capitally convicted, and sentence of death was pronounced against him.

This offender denied his guilt for some time, and hinted that Young was perjured; but he afterwards became truly sensible of the enormity of his crime, and confessed it, with all its aggravating circumstances. Two clergymen attended him to the place of execution, to which he walked, dressed in a shroud, and reading a religious book.

He was executed at Edinburgh on the 2d of March, 1749.

## JOHN COLLINGTON AND JOHN STONE,

EXECUTED FOR SETTING FIRE TO A BARN.

THE father of John Collington was Rector of Pluckley, near Sandwich, in Kent; and the youth was qualified, by a most liberal education and great natural talents, to have made a respectable figure in life; but his passions were so violent, and his revenge so implacable, that all who knew him beheld him with horror.

He used to declare that he would be a sincere friend, but an inveterate foe; and, even while at school, created such dissensions

among the other scholars, that he was held in universal contempt, and was discharged from more schools than one with marks of ignominy.

At length his father apprenticed him to a grocer in Newgate Street, London; but he behaved in such a manner as to become an object of terror to his fellow-servants. The following circumstance, trifling as it is, will serve to mark his disposition:—One of the maid-servants desiring him to fetch some mustard,



he went out for that purpose; but, calling a coach at the door, he drove to Cheapside, purchased the mustard, and, on his return, paid the fare out of his master's money in the till. The master, astonished at his behaviour, demanded the reason of it; when he gave for answer, 'That his parents had not bound him apprentice to be an errand-boy.'

On another occasion he asked his master's permission to visit his relations for a fortnight, and his request was complied with. When the time of his departure arrived, his master being absent, he asked his mistress to give him leave to stay three weeks, to which she consented; but he returned not till the end of five weeks: and his master inquiring why he had been so long absent, Collington replied that he had allowed him a fortnight, and his mistress three weeks; so that he had not outstaid his time. This duplicity of conduct incensed the master so, that he gave up his indentures, and discharged him.

Having served the remainder of his apprenticeship with a grocer of Maidstone, he opened a shop at Rye, in Sussex, where he lived some years; but his temper was so bad that he fomented perpetual discord among his neighbours; in consequence of which lawsuits arose, and scarce any one would deal with a man whom every one had reason to hate.

From this place he went to Charing, in Kent, where he likewise kept a shop a considerable time; but the same conduct which had rendered him an object of contempt at Rye made him equally obnoxious to the inhabitants of this latter place.

Collington had not been long in business before he married a young lady, with whom he received a con-

siderable fortune, and by whom he had ten children, four of whom were living at the time of the father's fatal exit.

The conduct of this man towards his wife and children was the most extravagant that can be imagined. The six children who died he buried in his own garden; nor would he permit any of them to be baptized. He frequently beat his children in a barbarous manner; and, when the mother interposed in their behalf, he used to confine her whole nights in a sawpit.

Being remarkably fond of sporting, his wife, when big with child, requested that he would procure her a partridge; in consequence of which he went out, and shot several: but, when the birds were dressed, and ready for the table, one of the children happening to offend him, he corrected it in so severe a manner as to endanger its life; and the mother interposing for the preservation of the child, he was so enraged that he cut the partridges in pieces, and threw them to the cats and dogs.

This instance of worse than savage ferocity so affected his wife, that she fell into fits and miscarried; but she had not been long recovered when, on her interposing in behalf of one of the children whom he was treating with severity, he threw her down stairs, and stamped on her breast, which gave rise to a cancer that occasioned her death.

Collington's father dying soon after this event, he succeeded to a good estate at Throwleigh, in Kent, to which place he removed, and took to the practice of exporting wool contrary to law; for which he was prosecuted in the Court of Exchequer, and convicted to pay a large penalty; but he avoided payment by having previously conveyed his estate to another, and

then swearing that he was not worth five pounds.

This man, being passionately fond of hunting, was frequently prosecuted for offending against the game laws, by which he was put to almost continual expense.

Notwithstanding the treatment his first wife had received from him, he soon married a second, by whom he had six children; and four of these, besides the same number by the former marriage, (as we have mentioned,) were living at the time of his death.

At length his offences against the laws made for the preservation of the game became so numerous, that the Dowager Countess of Rockingham built a cottage, in which she placed one of her servants as a spy upon his conduct.

Collington, incensed by this circumstance, tempted a poor countryman to set fire to the cottage; but the man had courage and honesty enough to resist the temptation. Hereupon Collington took one of his servants, named Luckhurst, to Faversham, in Kent, at the time of the fair, and, on their way thither, told him he would give him half a guinea to fire the said cottage; which the man received, and promised to comply.

On the following day, when Luckhurst recollected the nature of the contract he had been making, his mind was so disturbed, that he went to Collington, and offered back the money, declaring that he would have no share in the transaction. Collington was so enraged, that he threatened to destroy him unless he kept the money and did as he had agreed: the consequence of which was that the man fired the cottage at midnight, by which it was reduced to the ground.

Collington was so neglectful of his children, that he would not buy

them necessary apparel, so that they appeared like beggars; nor would he even pay for their learning to read. The following is a striking proof of his want of humanity:—One of his sons, a boy twelve years old, having offended him, he confined him in a sawpit, where he must have been starved, had he not been occasionally supplied with food by the humanity of the servants; and for this conduct their brutal master turned them out of the house, without paying what was due to them.

This inhuman father then refused to maintain his son, so that the child absolutely begged his bread in the neighborhood; but he had not wandered long in this manner, when Mr. Clarke, the churchwarden, received him into his house, and provided for him till the quarter-sessions, when he submitted the case to the consideration of the magistrates.

These gentlemen, having reflected that Mr. Collington was in affluent circumstances, gave directions that the child should be properly provided for, and issued a warrant for seizing on part of the father's effects to defray the charge. This warrant was executed by a constable, whom Clarke attended—a circumstance which gave such offence to Collington, that he vowed revenge, and bade Clarke make his will.

After this he hired five fellows to go to Mr. Clarke's house and demand the child, on pretence that he belonged to a ship; but Mr. Clarke, having the magistrates' order for his proceedings, said he was willing to answer for his conduct before any justice of the peace. No sooner had he thus expressed himself than they beat him in the most violent degree, and threatened his instant destruction unless he consented to accompany them.

These threats had such an effect, that he mounted a horse behind one of them; but as they were riding along he jumped off, and ran into the court-yard of a gentleman, whose gate happened to stand open, while the other parties fired at him; but he escaped unhurt. Here he remained till the following day, when he went to his own house, and thence to a magistrate, before whom he swore the peace against Collington; on which the magistrate granted his warrant for the apprehension of the offender, who, refusing to give bail for his good behaviour, was lodged in the gaol of Canterbury.

During his confinement he continually threatened vengeance against Clarke; and, to execute his purpose, he sent for a labouring man, named Stone, and the above-mentioned Luckhurst, and offered them a guinea each, on the condition of their setting fire to Mr. Clarke's barn, in which a considerable quantity of corn was deposited. The villains, agreeing to this bargain, fired the barn at midnight, and likewise a number of hayricks, all of which were destroyed.

Mr. Clarke, suspecting that Collington was the contriver of this horrid scheme, made application to a magistrate, who issued an order that the prisoner should be more closely confined, and that the gaol-keeper should take particular notice of his visitors. This precaution led to a discovery of the offenders; for Luckhurst coming to procure more money of Collington, he was taken into custody, and conducted before a justice of the peace, to whom he confessed the affair; and, being admitted an evidence, Stone was soon taken up as one of the principals.

At the following assizes, held at

Maidstone, Collington and Stone were brought to trial; when the former turned his back on the Court with an air of such utter contempt, that the judge declared he had never been witness to such a scene of insolence.

The prisoners, being convicted on the fullest evidence, were carried back to Canterbury, where the debtors commiserated their unhappy circumstances; but Collington made a jest of his situation, and swore he did not regard it, as he was certain of obtaining the royal mercy.

This hardened villain likewise encouraged Stone to hope for mercy, as he could get him included in the pardon; but the event proved how much he was mistaken in his conjecture.

Collington's wife, coming to visit him, was so affected with grief as to be unable to speak to him for a considerable time; yet he was so hardened as not to feel for her situation; bidding her not give herself the least concern, as he was certain of getting a reprieve; and hoped to live to revenge himself on his enemies, even if he should be transported.

He frequently expressed himself in the most revengeful terms against his prosecutors; and appeared in other respects so destitute of all the feelings of humanity, that his conduct surprised every one who was witness to it. Thus he spent his time without preparing for the sentence that he was to suffer, and still boasting to his visitors that the rank of life he held as a gentleman would secure him a reprieve.

Luckhurst, who had been evidence against him, being apprehended for committing a robbery on the highway, Collington thought this a fair opportunity to solicit a reprieve; for which purpose he dis-



patched an express to the Duke of Newcastle; but the answer he received was, that he must not expect any favour, for that the gentlemen of the county had exerted their influence that the law might be permitted to take its course.

On being informed that the warrant for his execution was arrived, his boasted courage left him for a short time; but, recollecting himself, he inquired if Stone was included in the warrant; and, being answered in the affirmative, said he lamented his situation more than his own. After this he soon recovered his spirits, and still flattered himself with the hope of being pardoned.

The day preceding his execution he was visited by his wife and seven

ral relations, who advised him to make a serious preparation for his approaching death, and asked him where he would be buried. This question inflamed all his passions, so that he swore he would not be hanged; but, soon afterwards, calling for a glass of wine, he drank it, saying, 'Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die.'

On the following day Collington was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning-coach, and Stone in a cart; and, both of them being placed under the gallows, Collington prayed with the minister, but declined making any speech to the surrounding multitude.

These men suffered at Canterbury on the 7th of April, 1749.

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### ROBERT COX,

EXECUTED FOR FORGING SEAMEN'S TICKETS.

THIS man was tried on several indictments: the first for stealing a certain obligation called 'a seaman's ticket,' the property of Benjamin Berry; the others for forgery, in indorsing the same.

When ships of war return from a long foreign station, the crews are generally turned over to others fit for service; and, upon these occasions, each man is delivered a warrant, signed by the principal officers under whom he served, and which is called a seaman's ticket: in fact, it is a negotiable property, when indorsed, like a note of hand or bill of exchange; but, because the men should not be tempted to sell their tickets under price, instead of being put into their possession they are sent with them to the captain of the ship to which they are turned over, and lodged in his hands till they are ordered to some other ship, and then these tickets are still sent with them.

Soon after the peace was agreed upon the men of the Royal George were discharged, and the tickets put into the hands of their proper owners; but those of Mr. Berry and twelve seamen more could not be found. They immediately laid the fact before the Lords of the Admiralty, who wrote to Captain Harrison. The captain was unable to say more than that the tickets could not be found; upon which the Lords of the Admiralty thought fit to mulct the wages due to the men out of Captain Harrison's pay; who now feeling, most sensibly, the case of the poor sailors, made more immediate inquiry after the lost tickets, and accordingly advertised them, with a reward to any person who should make a discovery.

Mr. Cullen, who formerly kept the inn called the India Arms, at Gosport, deposed that the identical tickets, so advertised, were de-



posited with him by the prisoner, Robert Cox, as security for twenty guineas which he had lent him: and that, on the appearance of the advertisement, Cox came to him to beg he would take his bond for the twenty guineas, and give him up the tickets; but Cullen refused to do so, and hastened to give information to Captain Harrison.

Upon the trial of the first indictment no proof could be adduced that the prisoner stole the tickets: he was accordingly acquitted;—but the second was fatal to him; for, as it was fully proved that he forged the name of Berry to the tickets, he was found guilty, and executed at Winchester, September 1, 1749.



*Mills and his Companions whipping Hawkins to Death.*

## JOHN MILLS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

This monster was another son of Richard Mills, whose execution has already appeared; and the sequel will show that he was in the habits of cruelty and villainy 'worthy of his sire.'

He also was concerned in the murder of the custom-house officers, but escaped a little longer the hand of justice. He was likewise one of that gang of villains who most dar-

ingly broke open the custom-house at Poole; and yet was he reserved to make atonement for a fresh murder, equally cruel as that for which his father and brother had forfeited their lives.

John Mills, and some associates, travelling over Hind Heath, saw the judges on their road to Chichester, to try the murderers of Chater and Galley; on which young Mills pro-

posed to rob them; but the other parties refused to have any concern in such an affair.

Soon after his father, brother, and their accomplices, were hanged, Mills thought of going to Bristol, with a view of embarking for France; and, having hinted his intentions to some others, they resolved to accompany him; and, stopping at a house on the road, they met with one Richard Hawkins, whom they asked to go with them; but the poor fellow hesitating, they put him on horseback behind Mills, and carried him to the Dog and Partridge, on Sleuden Common, which was kept by John Reynolds.

They had not been long in the house when complaint was made that two bags of tea had been stolen, and Hawkins was charged with the robbery. He steadily denied any knowledge of the affair; but this not satisfying the villains, they obliged him to pull off his clothes; and, having likewise stripped themselves, they began to whip him with the most unrelenting barbarity; and Curtis, one of the gang, said he did know of the robbery, and, if he would not confess, he would whip him till he did; for he had whipped many a rogue, and washed his hands in his blood.\*

These bloodthirsty villains continued whipping the poor wretch till their breath was almost exhausted: while he begged them to spare his life, on account of his wife and child. Hawkins drawing up his legs, to defend himself in

some measure from their blows, they kicked him on the groin in a manner too shocking to be described; continually asking him what was become of the tea. At length the unfortunate man mentioned something of his father and brother; on which Mills and one Curtis said they would go and fetch them; but Hawkins expired soon after they had left the house.

Rowland, one of the accomplices, now locked the door; and, putting the key in his pocket, he and Thomas Winter (who was afterwards admitted evidence) went out to meet Curtis and Mills, whom they saw riding up a lane leading from an adjacent village, having each a man behind him. Winter desiring to speak with his companions, the other men stood at a distance, while he asked Curtis what he meant to do with them, who replied, to confront them with Hawkins.

Winter now said that Hawkins was dead, and begged that no more mischief might be done; but Curtis replied, 'By G— we will go through it now;' but at length they permitted them to go home, saying that when they were wanted they should be sent for.

The murderers now coming back to the public house, Reynolds said 'Yon have ruined me;' but Curtis replied that he would make him amends. Having consulted how they should dispose of the body, it was proposed to throw it into a well in an adjacent park; but this being objected to, they carried it twelve

\* On the 11th of December, 1759, John Watling, nicknamed Peter Jack, a smuggler of Horsey, in Norfolk, was hanged. This villain, among the numerous enormities which he committed, at the head of eleven more smugglers, went in the night to the house of Abraham Bailey, who had been a custom-house watchman, pulled him out of bed, whipped him with their whips until the blood trickled down his body, then hung him by the neck to a tree, but let him down before he was dead. When he recovered his senses they obliged him to answer their questions, and made him swear to his own damnation if he revealed what they had done to him.

miles, and, having tied stones to it, in order to sink it, they threw it into a pond in Parham Park, belonging to Sir Cecil Bishop; and in this place it lay more than two months before it was discovered.

This horrid and unprovoked murder gave rise to a royal proclamation, in which a pardon was offered to any persons, even outlawed smugglers, except those who had been guilty of murder, or concerned in breaking open the custom-house at Poole, on the condition of discovering the persons who had murdered Hawkins, particularly Mills, who was charged with having had a concern in the horrid transaction.

Hereupon William Pring, an outlawed smuggler, who had not had any share in either of the crimes excepted in the proclamation, went to the secretary of state, and informed him that he would find Mills if he could be ascertained of his own pardon; adding, that he believed he was either at Bath or Bristol.

Being assured that he need not doubt of the pardon, he set out for Bristol, where he found Mills, and with him Thomas and Lawrence Kemp, brothers; the former of whom had broken out of Newgate, and the other was outlawed by proclamation. Having consulted on their desperate circumstances, Pring offered them a retreat at his house near Beckenham, in Kent, whence they might make excursions, and commit robberies on the highway.

Pleased with this proposal, they set out with Pring, and arrived in safety at his house; where they had not been long before he pretended that his horse being an indifferent one, and theirs remarkably good, he would go and procure an-

other, and then they would proceed on the intended expedition.

Thus saying, he set out, and they agreed to wait for his return; but, instead of going to procure a horse, he went to the house of Mr. Rackster, an officer of the excise at Horsham, who, taking with him seven or eight armed men, went to Beckenham at night, where they found Mills and the two brothers Kemp just going to supper on a breast of veal. They immediately secured the brothers by tying their arms; but Mills, making resistance, was cut with a hanger before he would submit.

The offenders, being taken, were conducted to the county gaol for Sussex; and, being secured till the assizes, were removed to East Grinstead, where the brothers Kemp were tried for highway robberies, convicted, sentenced, and executed.

Mills, being tried for the murder of Hawkins, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, and to be hung in chains near the place where the murder was committed.

After conviction he mentioned several robberies in which he had been concerned, but refused to tell the names of any of his accomplices; declaring that he thought he should merit damnation if he made discoveries by means of which any of his companions might be apprehended and convicted.

The country being at that time filled with smugglers, a rescue was feared; wherefore he was conducted to the place of execution by a guard of soldiers; and, when there, prayed with a clergyman, confessed that he had led a bad life, acknowledged the murder of Hawkins, desired that all young people would take warning by his untimely end, humbly implored the forgiveness of

God, and professed to die in charity with all mankind.

He was executed on Slendon

Common on the 12th of August, 1749, and afterwards hung in chains near the same spot.\*

### RICHARD COLEMAN,

EXECUTED ON A CHARGE OF MURDER, OF WHICH HE WAS INNOCENT.

IN our note respecting the case of Wood and Brown we have already instanced the danger of identifying another whom we have seen but casually, in the evidence given by Sir Thomas and Lady Davenport, who, with their servants, swore to the persons of those unfortunate men as being those who had robbed them, when their mistake was discovered by proving an *alibi*. We lament that on the trial of Coleman, whom we shall hereafter find to have been innocent of the charge for which he suffered death, this defence did not succeed. Well may we exclaim, 'Better that ninety-nine guilty men should escape, than the innocent hundredth should suffer!'

Shocked at the fate of this man, we would again caution prosecutors against being too positive in their identity of the accused; and, previously to entering upon this melancholy case, will give another instance of the fallibility of human nature.

At the assizes for Surrey, held at Kingston on the 2d of August, 1740, Bartholomew Greenwood, Esq. a gentleman of good private

estate, and rider to the first troop of horse-guards, a place of about two hundred pounds a year in value, was indicted for robbing — Wheatley, Esq. in a field near Camberwell, at half past nine on the 5th of June then last past.

Mr. Wheatley positively swore that the prisoner, Mr. Greenwood, was the identical man by whom he was robbed at the time and place above mentioned. From the opinions which had been previously formed on the improbability of a gentleman of Mr. Greenwood's respectability being base enough to turn footpad, the trial engaged the general attention of the county. The prosecutor called a number of witnesses as to his fortune and high character, which they testified in an eminent degree.

Mr. Greenwood, being called upon for his defence, set up an *alibi*; to substantiate which, he called a number of witnesses of equal credibility, who proved that he was in a different place at the time the robbery was sworn to have been committed. They gave a distinct detail, and adduced many corroborating circumstances, how

\* In Suffolk, about this time, was another desperate gang of outlawed smugglers. An officer of excise, having received information that two of the most daring (one of the name of Rich, and the other called Cock) were at a certain place in his district, he went with two more, well armed, in pursuit of them, and overtook them near the Fens, at Mildew Hall. The smugglers immediately fired, without effect. Rich then desperately rode up to the officer, and made a blow at him with a broad axe, but missed; he then, in a scuffle with one of the three pursuers, wrenched his pistol from him; and, firing at the officer, knocked out two of his teeth. Recovering the effects of the ball, the officer resolutely attacked the smuggler, fired a brace of pistols at him, and beat him over the head with the butt-ends of them until he fell from his horse. The officer's followers were chiefly engaged with Cock, who, however, effected his escape. Rich died of his wounds next morning; his skull was found fractured, and two balls were extracted from his body.



and where he passed the day until eleven at night. In addition to this he called gentlemen of the first rank, and the officers of the regiment in which he served, in support of his character, which they completely established as a man of worth and probity.

The jury were convinced that the prosecutor had mistaken the prisoner, and instantly acquitted him.

Richard Coleman was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston, in Surrey, in March, 1749, for the murder of Sarah Green on the 23d of July preceding; when he was capitally convicted.

Mr. Coleman had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer at the time the affair happened which cost him his life; and had a wife and two children, who were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish in consequence of his conviction.

The murdered person was Sarah Green, who, having been with some acquaintance to a banquet in Kennington Lane, staid to a late hour, and on her return towards Southwark she met with three men, who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom used her in a manner too inhuman to admit of description.

Such was the ill treatment inflicted, that it was two o'clock in the morning before the poor girl was able to reach her lodgings, and on the following day she was so ill that she informed several people how she had been treated; on which she was sent to St. Thomas's Hospital.

While in the hospital she declared that the clerk in Taylor's (then Berry's) brewhouse was one of the parties who had treated her in such an infamous manner; and

it was supposed that Coleman was the person to whom she alluded.

Two days after the shocking transaction had occurred Coleman and one Daniel Trotman happened to call at the Queen's Head ale-house in Bandy-Leg Walk, when the latter was perfectly sober, but the former in a state of intoxication. Having called for some rum and water, Coleman was stirring it with a spoon, when a stranger asked him what he had done with the pig; meaning a pig that had been lately stolen in the neighborhood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said 'Damn the pig, what is it to me?'

The other, who seems to have had an intention to insnare him, asked if he did not know Kennington Lane. Coleman answered that he did, and added 'Damn ye, what of that?' The stranger then asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington Lane. Coleman replied 'Yes;' and again said, 'Damn ye, what of that?' The other man asked, 'Was not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?' Coleman, who, as we have said, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied, 'If I had, you dog, what then?' and threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A violent quarrel ensued; but at length Coleman went away with Trotman.

On the following day, Coleman calling at the Queen's Head above mentioned, the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted the preceding one. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what had passed, asked if he had offended any person; on which the landlord informed him of what had

happened; but the other, still conscious of his innocence, paid no regard to what he said.

On the 29th of August, Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr. Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted, and cruelly treated, Sarah Green, in the Parsonage Walk, near Newington church, in Surrey.

The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed that Coleman was guilty, sent for him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital where the wounded woman lay; and a person, pointing out Coleman, asked if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She said she believed he was: but, as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, Justice Clarke admitted him to bail.

Some time afterwards Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when nothing positively being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him: but Mr. Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her, a time was fixed for that purpose, and the justice took Coleman's word for his appearance.

The accused party came punctually to his time, bringing with him the landlord of an alehouse where Sarah Green had drunk on the night of the affair with the three men who really injured her; and this publican, and other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties.

On the following day Justice Clarke went to the hospital, to take the examination of the woman on oath. Having asked her if Coleman was one of the men who had injured her, she said she could not

tell, as it was dark at the time; but, Coleman being called in, an oath was administered to her, when she swore that he was one of the three men that abused her.

Notwithstanding this oath, the justice, who thought the poor girl not in her right senses, and was convinced in his own mind of the innocence of Coleman, permitted him to depart, on his promise of bringing bail the following day to answer the complaint at the next assizes for Surrey; and he brought his bail, and gave security accordingly.

Sarah Green dying in the hospital, the coroner's jury sat to inquire into the cause of her death; and having found a verdict of 'Wilful Murder' against Richard Coleman, and two persons then unknown, a warrant was issued to take Coleman into custody.

Though this man was conscious of his innocence, yet, such were his terrors at the idea of going to prison on such a charge, that he absconded, and secreted himself at Pinner, near Harrow-on-the-Hill.

King George the Second being then at Hanover, a proclamation was issued by the lords of the regency, offering a reward of fifty pounds for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of twenty pounds.

Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the Gazette, but was still so thoughtless as to conceal himself; though, perhaps, an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence: however, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisement to be inserted:

• I, Richard Coleman, seeing my-

self advertised in the Gazette, as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself not any way culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from justice; but will willingly and readily appear at the next assizes, knowing that my innocence will acquit me.'

Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner, above mentioned, on the 22d of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the new gaol, Southwark, till the time of the assizes at Kingston, in Surrey; when his conviction arose principally from the evidence of Trotman and the declaration of the dying woman.

Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed; but their evidence was not credited by the jury, though it will be seen, in a subsequent part of this work, that it would have been happy if a proper attention had been paid to it.

After conviction Coleman behaved like one who was possessed of conscious innocence, and who had no fear of death for a crime which he had not committed.

He was attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper, in which he declared, in the most solemn and explicit manner, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alleged against him. He died with great resignation, lamenting only the distress in which he should leave a wife and two children.

This unhappy victim to erroneous evidence suffered the sentence

of the law at Kennington Common on the 12th of April, 1749.

There is something exceedingly shocking in the fate of this man. He was convicted, in a great measure, on the evidence of the poor injured woman, whose excruciating pains of body may well be supposed to have impaired the faculties of her mind. Her doubt respecting him, and her refusing to swear to him when she first saw him in the hospital, ought, in a great degree, to have destroyed the force of her evidence, when the aggravated pains of the body had still more weakened her intellects.

Justices of the peace, in general, we are sorry to say it, are but too fond of finding out evidence against prisoners; and it is to be feared that to their officious diligence it is owing that many an innocent man has lost his life. Mr. Clarke was a striking exception to this general rule: his doubt of the truth of the woman's evidence added to his prior confidence of Mr. Coleman's innocence.

However justices may choose to act in cases of this nature, jurymen should consider themselves, as they really are, the judges of the fact; and never convict on evidence merely circumstantial, except when the circumstances are so numerous in themselves, so evidently depending on each other, and supported by the testimony of such a number of credible witnesses, as to produce evidence at least as full as what would arise from the positive oath of any single person.

The reader will hereafter find the proof of this unhappy man's innocence, in the trial of those who actually perpetrated the murder.

SAMUEL COUCHMAN AND JOHN MORGAN, LIEUTENANTS OF MARINES; THOMAS KNIGHT, CARPENTER; AND OTHERS;

SHOT FOR MUTINY.

THE Chesterfield man of war, under the command of Captain O'Brian Dudley, was stationed off Cape-coast Castle, on the coast of Africa, when a dangerous mutiny broke out among the crew, of whom the above-named officers were the leaders. They were charged with 'exciting and encouraging mutiny, and running away with his majesty's ship Chesterfield, on the 10th day of October, 1748, from the coast of Africa, leaving their captain, two lieutenants, with other officers, and some seamen, on shore.'

Hereupon a court-martial was held on board his majesty's ship *Invincible*, of which Sir Edward Hawke, of glorious memory, was president.

The first evidence called in support of the prosecution was Mr. Gasterin, the late boatswain of the *Chesterfield*, who deposed that on the 15th of October, 1748, Captain Dudley, being then on shore at Cape-coast Castle, sent off his barge to Lieutenant Couchman, ordering him to send the cutter on shore with the boatswain of the ship, to see the tents struck on shore, and to bring every thing belonging to the ship on board that night; but Couchman directly ordered the barge to be hoisted in, and the boatswain to turn all hands on the quarter-deck, where Mr. Couchman, coming from his cabin with a drawn sword, said, 'Here I am! God damn me, I will stand by you while I have a drop of blood in my body!' He was accompanied by John Morgan, the second lieutenant of marines, Thomas Knight, the carpenter, his mate, John Place (a principal actor), and about thirty seamen with

cutlasses. They then gave three huzzas, and threw their hats overboard; damning old hats, they would soon get new.

Couchman then sent for the boatswain, to know if he would stand by him, and go with him: he replied 'No;' and said, 'For God's sake, sir, be ruled by reason, and consider what you are about.' Couchman then threatened to put him in irons if he did not join with him; but the boatswain told him he never would be in such piratical designs: he was then ordered into custody, and two sentinels put over him. Couchman soon after sent for Gilham, the mate of the ship, and made the same speech to him, who desired to know where he was bound, and upon what account? He replied, 'To take, burn, and sink, and settle a colony in the East Indies.' There were five or six more put in custody with the boatswain in the same place, and were confined only five or six hours; for, in the middle of the night after their confinement, Couchman sent for them into the great cabin, desired them to sit and drink punch, and then dismissed them. The next day the boatswain was invited to dinner by the new commander, who began to rail against Captain Dudley, and asked him and one of the mates what they thought of the affair. The boatswain replied he thought it rank piracy; on which Couchman said, 'What I have done I cannot now go from; I was forced to it by the ship's company.' The boatswain then told him 'that would be no sanction for his running away with the king's ship.' The carpenter and lieutenant then proposed their signing a paper; to



which the boatswain replied 'He never would; and would sooner suffer death.' The mate said the same. When the boatswain came out of the great cabin he went to the gunner's cabin, who was then sick, and unable to come out of it, but was of great use by his prudent advice and assistance; for, after the boatswain had told him that Couchman's party had taken possession of all the arms, he said that he could furnish him with twenty pistols. By this time Mr. Fraser and Mr. Gilham, mates of the ship, the gunner's mate, and Yeoman, the cockswain of the barge, were come to them, when the boatswain communicated his design of recovering the ship that very night. To this they all agreed with the greatest resolution.

It began then to be very dark, being 10 *p. m.* when the boatswain went to sound the ship's company. On the fore-castle there were about thirty men, to whom, in a plain but prudent manner, he disclosed the secret, and soon convinced them both of the facility and necessity of putting the scheme immediately in practice: accordingly, the first step was to get up all the irons or bilboes on the fore-castle; he then sent for the twenty pistols, which were all loaded: he next ordered three men upon the grand magazine, and two to that abaft; and the remainder, who had no pistols, to stay by the bilboes, and secure as many prisoners as he should send. This disposition being made, he went directly down on the deck, where he divided his small company into two parties; and, one going down the main, the other the fore hatchway, they soon secured eleven or twelve of the ringleaders, and sent them up to the fore-castle without the least noise. The two parties then joined, and went directly to the great cabin,

where they secured Couchman and Morgan, with the carpenter, whom they immediately confined in different parts of the ship.

Thus was the ship bravely rescued by the intrepidity and prudence of a few honest fellows, after she had been about thirty hours in the possession of a poor unhappy man, who appears to have been utterly unfit for so daring an enterprise, and was in his unfortunate condition very penitent.

The boatswain (Roger Winket) was afterwards rewarded with three hundred pounds a year, as master-attendant of Woolwich yard.

John Place was charged with being very active in the mutiny. The gunner deposed that the said Place came to him, as he lay sick in his cabin, with a drawn cutlass and a cocked pistol, and swore that he would murder him if he did not deliver to him the key of the magazine. He made no defence, but submitted to the mercy of the Court.

John Place, after sentence, wrote letters of religious exhortation to his brothers in affliction. His letter to Mr. Couchman upbraids him with having been the murderer of those who were condemned with him, by first seducing them from their duty; exhorts him not to attempt to screen himself by imputing his guilt to others; and concludes, 'I freely forgive you, though you are the cause of my death, as you know full well; and I would have you act with a brave resignation to the will of God; and not, by mean hopes of life, lose an opportunity to secure a blessed eternity. Despise life, as I do, with God's assistance, and die like a man.'

ANSWER.

'Mr. Place,

You will die like a villain.

'S. COUCHMAN

The Court found the following guilty, who were executed in the manner hereafter mentioned :

On the 14th July, Samuel Couchman, first lieutenant of marines, shot.

July 14, John Morgan, second lieutenant of marines, shot.

July 24, Thomas Knight, carpenter; John Place, carpenter's-mate; John Meeks, seaman; William Anderson, seaman; John Reed, quarter-master; and Thomas Scott, seaman, hanged.

Captain Dudley was tried for 'Neglect of duty, in keeping a number of his officers on shore at Cape-coast Castle, when the ship was seized,' and acquitted.

Others of the ship's company, also tried for mutiny, were acquitted.

On the 26th of June, 1749, James Colvin, late boatswain's mate on board the Richmond man of war, was hanged at Portsmouth for mutiny.

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### HUGH DAWSON AND JOHN GAMMELL,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

DAWSON was an Irishman, and born of respectable parents, his father having been a bookseller in Londonderry. Gammell was a Scotchman, of Greenock; and both were lazy worthless fellows.

The father of Dawson, finding his son would settle to no business in his own country, sent him to sea in a trading vessel, the property of one of his relations. After the first voyage he remained some time at home, and did not seem to entertain any farther thoughts of going to sea; but, falling in love with a young woman in the neighborhood, she promised him marriage, but advised him to follow his former occupation some time longer.

In consequence of this advice he went again to sea; and, on his return from each voyage, visited his favorite girl: but at length it was discovered by her parents that she was pregnant by her lover. Alarmed by this circumstance, they proposed to Dawson's father to give him a fortune proportioned to what they would bestow on their girl; but this the old man obstinately refused, though the son earnestly entreated him to accede to the proposal.

Hereupon young Dawson left his

parents, swore he would never again return home, and went once more to sea. Having made some voyages, the vessel in which he sailed put into the harbour of Sandwich; on which Dawson quitted a seafaring life, and married a girl of fortune, who bore him two children, which were left to the care of her relations at her death, which happened six years after her marriage.

On this event Dawson went again to sea, and was in several naval engagements. When his ship was paid off he went to Bristol, where he was arrested for a debt he had contracted. At this period he heard of the death of his father, and that his mother's affection for him was in no degree diminished; on which he wrote her an account of his situation; and she sent him fifty pounds, which relieved him from his embarrassments.

Having procured his liberty, he went to London, and, marrying the widow of a seaman, who possessed some money, they lived in harmony a considerable time, till, making a connexion with dissolute companions, he commenced the practices which led to his ruin.

Gammell, who had been a shipmate with Dawson, was one of these companions, and, being now out of employment, advised him to go on the highway. He hesitated for some time: but, having drank freely, his resolution failed him, and he agreed to the fatal proposal.

These accomplices dressed themselves as sailors, and, concealing bludgeons under their jackets, knocked down the persons they intended to rob, and stripped them of their effects.

The robbery which cost them their lives was committed near New Cross turnpike, on a gentleman named Outridge, from whom they took his money and watch, and treated him with great barbarity. Being pursued by some people whom Mr. Outridge informed of the robbery, Dawson was overtaken and confined; and, having given information where Gammell lodged, he likewise was apprehended; and both of them being conveyed to the new gaol, Southwark, they mutually recriminated on each other.

On the approach of the assizes for Surrey the prisoners were carried to Croydon, where they were both tried, and capitally convicted. After sentence was passed, Dawson was visited by a Roman Catholic priest, who intimated that he had heard he was of the Romish religion: but the other said he would die in the Protestant faith, in which he had been educated; but, notwithstanding this declaration, and his regular attendance on the forms of the Protestant mode, there was reason to conclude that he was a Catholic from a paper that was found in his cell after his death.

On the night preceding the execution the behaviour of Dawson evinced the distraction of his mind. He was visited by his wife, who had been sitting some time with him, when the turnkey came, and inte-

mated that he must retire: on which he refused to go, and knocked the turnkey down; but others of the keepers coming, he was secured. His wife would now have taken a final leave of him; and he said if she did not depart he would murder her.

As the keepers were conducting him through the court-yard to his cell, he called to the other prisoners, saying, 'Hallo! my boys! Dawson is to be hanged to-morrow.'

The prisoners were conveyed to the place of execution in the same cart; and, when there, Dawson expressed his hope of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, and declared he died in charity with all men. Gammell addressed the surrounding multitude, particularly hoping that his brother seamen would avoid the commission of such crimes as led to his deplorable end. He hoped forgiveness from all whom he had injured, and acknowledged that he fell a victim to the equity of the laws.

These men were hanged at Kennington Common on the 22d of August, 1749.

On considering this story, it may be proper to reprobate the conduct of Dawson's father, who would not contribute what he was able to empower him to do justice to a poor girl whom he had injured, whom he sincerely loved, who indisputably loved him, and who would probably have made him a good wife, and saved him from the ignominious fate which was the consequence of his future crimes.

Proper as it may be to expatiate on the duty of children to parents, it cannot be less proper to remark on that duty which parents owe to children. These obligations are indeed reciprocal; and, if a child is bound to pay obedience to the father who protects and educates him, the father is not less bound to treat

with kindness and humanity the child who owes his being to him.

Happy are those families where fathers and sons, where mothers and daughters, live in mutual love and confidence, in a constant re-

gard and unabating esteem for each other! It is a life like this which makes home at all times the most agreeable of places, and constitutes a little heaven upon earth!

### BOSAVERN PENLEZ,

EXECUTED FOR BEING CONCERNED IN A RIOT.

THIS unhappy youth (for he can hardly be deemed a malefactor) was the son of a native of the island of Jersey, who, having been educated at Oxford, entered into orders; and, having obtained a small church preferment, settled near Exeter, where his unfortunate son was born.

His father dying while he was young, he was placed as an apprentice to a barber and peruke-maker at Exeter, by the stewards of the Sons of the Clergy. Having served his apprenticeship with the highest reputation for good character and sobriety, he came to London, and lived in several places with the utmost credit, till a circumstance equally unpremeditated and unforeseen occasioned his destruction.

On Saturday, the 1st of July, 1749, three seamen belonging to the Grafton man of war, having called at a house of ill fame in the Strand, were there robbed of their watches, a bank-note value twenty pounds, four moidores, and thirty guineas.

The seamen demanded a reparation for their loss; instead of which some bullies belonging to the house pushed them from the door; whereupon they went away, denouncing vengeance; and, having collected a number of their companions in the neighborhood of Wapping, they returned at night, broke open the house, turned the women almost naked into the streets, ripped up the beds, threw the feathers out of the window, broke the furniture in pieces, and made a bonfire of it.

Having proceeded to behave in a similar manner at another house of ill fame, a party of the guards was sent for, and the mob for the present dispersed.

On the following day, being Sunday, immense numbers of people crowded to see the ruins of the infamous houses; and on this day Bosavern Penlez went to the house of Mr. Pearce, in Wych Street, where he had left some clothes; and, when he had cleaned himself, he visited an acquaintance named Taylor, with whom he drank at a public house, dined, and spent the afternoon.

In the evening Penlez walked in Somerset Gardens, and, at eight o'clock, went back to his friend Taylor, who being engaged with company, Penlez declined staying, and proceeded to meet an acquaintance at the Horseshoe, near Temple Bar. Having drank some beer with him, he was returning to his lodgings, when he unfortunately met with another acquaintance, who told him it was his birth-day, and begged he would drink some punch with him.

This request being complied with, Penlez became quite intoxicated; and, in his way home, found a mob at the door of the Star tavern, near Temple Bar, endeavoring to destroy what the seamen had left undemolished. Many of the people got into the house, and did great damage; and Penlez, with John Wilson and Benjamin Launder, was taken into custody.



Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, the witnesses were Peter Wood (the landlord), his wife, and one Reeves, their servant, who positively swore to the commission of the facts alleged in the indictment.

To discredit their testimony, Mr. John Mixon, the collector of the scavenger's rate, deposed that he did not think the oath of Mr. or Mrs. Wood was to be taken, and that he would not hang a cat or a dog on their evidence. He added, that the house they kept was of the most notorious ill fame; that the rates were paid in the name of Thompson; that Wood and his wife had been often prosecuted for keeping a disorderly house; and that the neighbours were afraid to appear against them.

In the course of the trial Wood swore 'that the mob amounted to about seven hundred people; that eight or ten of them came into his parlour, among whom were Wilson and Penlez; that they broke the partition with their sticks, pulled out the pieces with their hands, destroyed all the furniture in the parlour, and threw it into the street, broke down his bar, and knocked him down on the stairs;' with many other circumstances, tending to prove the riot, and that the prisoners were concerned in it.

Several persons of reputation appeared to the character of the prisoners; but the positive evidence against them induced the jury to convict Penlez and Wilson; but Launder was acquitted.

The inhabitants of the parish of St. Clement Danes, and many individuals, made great interest to save these unfortunate youths, in conse-

quence of which Wilson was reprieved, but Penlez was ordered for execution.

It is said that the king was disposed to have pardoned them both; but that Lord Chief Justice Willes, before whom they were tried, declared in council that no regard would be paid to the laws except one of them was made an example of. Our account informs us that the king still inclined to pardon them both, and that the chief justice was three times sent for and consulted on this occasion; but that he still persisted in his former opinion.\*

After conviction Penlez behaved in such a manner as evidently testified the goodness of his disposition, and the little probability there was of such a man committing a wilful premeditated crime. It is not in language to describe how much he was pitied by the public. Every one wished his pardon, and wondered, without considering the necessity that there was for an example, that he was not spared.

When the day of execution arrived he prepared to meet his fate with the consciousness of an innocent man, and the courage of a Christian. The late Sir Stephen Theodore Janssen, Chamberlain of London, was at that time sheriff; and a number of soldiers being placed at Holborn Bars, to conduct Penlez to Tyburn (as a rescue was apprehended), the sheriff politely dismissed them, asserting that the civil power was sufficient to carry the edicts of the law into effectual execution.

This unhappy youth was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of October, 1749.

The worthy inhabitants of St.

\* It is a well-known fact that Lord Chief Justice Willes was a steady assertor of the dignity of the law. It could not be supposed that he could have any prejudice against the convict, and it must be concluded that his opinion arose from a regard to the public good.

Clement Danes, who had been among the foremost in soliciting a pardon for Penlez, finding all their efforts ineffectual, did all possible honour to his memory, by burying him in a distinguished manner in a churchyard of their parish, on the evening after his unfortunate exit, which happened in the twenty-third year of his age.

Instead of making any reflections on this case, we shall insert the following piece, which will sufficiently declare the sentiments of the public, at the time, on this interesting occasion :

‘ A Monumental Inscription intended for Penlez, the person who was executed for assisting to demolish the houses of ill fame in the Strand.

‘ To the memory of the unfortunate  
BOSAVERN PENLEZ,

Who finished a life, generally  
well reported of,

By a violent and ignominious death.

He was the son of a clergyman,  
To whom he was indebted for an  
education which he so wisely  
improved

As to merit the love and esteem of  
all that knew him.

But actuated by principles, in themselves truly laudable,

(When rightly directed, and  
properly restrained,)

He was hurried, by a ZEAL for his  
countrymen,

And an honest detestation of  
PUBLIC STEWS,

(The most certain BANE OF YOUTH,  
and the DISGRACE OF GOVERN-  
MENT,)

To engage in an undertaking, which  
the most partial cannot defend,  
And yet the least candid must excuse.

For thus indeliberately mixing with

rioters, whom he accidentally  
met with,

He was condemned to die ;

And, of four hundred\* persons concerned in the same attempt,

he only suffered,

Though neither principal nor contriver.

How well he deserved life appears  
From his generous contempt of it,  
in forbidding a rescue of himself :

And what returns he would

have made

to ROYAL CLEMENCY,

Had it been extended to him, may  
fairly be presumed

From his noble endeavours to prevent the least affront to that

power,

Which, though greatly importuned,  
refused to save him.

What was denied to his person  
was paid to his ashes

By the inhabitants of St. Clement  
Danes,

Who ordered him to be interred  
among their brethren,

Defrayed the charges of his funeral,  
And thought no mark of pity or  
respect too much

For this unhappy youth,

Whose death was occasioned by no  
other fault

But a too warm indignation for  
their sufferings.

By his sad example, reader ! be  
admonished

Of the many ill consequences that  
attend an intemperate zeal.

Learn hence to respect the laws—  
even the most oppressive ;

And think thyself happy under that  
government,

“ That doth *truly* and *indifferently*  
administer justice,

To the punishment of WICKEDNESS  
and vice,

And to the maintenance of God's  
TRUE RELIGION and VIRTUE.” ’

\* Wood's testimony says seven hundred, but this must have been given by guess.

## BENJAMIN NEALE,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

BENJAMIN NEALE was the son of an apothecary and surgeon at Extel, in Warwickshire, who, having many children to provide for, apprenticed Benjamin to a baker in a large business at Coventry.

During his apprenticeship his conduct was very reprehensible; for he would frequently stay out whole nights, and return to his master's house in the morning in a state of intoxication.

With some difficulty he served to the end of his time, when several of the inhabitants of Coventry recommended it to his father to put him into business, and promised to deal with him; and the father enabled him to begin the world in a creditable manner. For a considerable time he had such success in business, that he became the principal baker in the place, and married the daughter of one of the aldermen, with whom he received a good fortune; and he would soon have been a rich man if he had paid a proper attention to his business: however, it was not long after he received his wife's fortune before he began to give himself such airs of consequence as rendered him disagreeable to his wife, and made the servants look on him as a perfect tyrant.

To this behaviour succeeded a neglect of his business, which visibly declined, while he frequented cock-pits and horse-races. It was in vain that his father and his wife remonstrated on the impropriety of his conduct, and represented its inconsistency with the life of a tradesman: he continued his courses till his character was lost, and he was reduced to labour as a journeyman baker.

Unable to submit with decency

to a fate which he had brought on himself, he wandered about the country, picking up a casual and doubtful subsistence. Returning one night to Coventry, he found his mother, his wife, and child, in company. He demanded money; but they refusing to supply him, he threatened to murder them, and was proceeding to put his threats into execution, when their cries alarmed their neighbours, and prevented the perpetration of the deed; but this affair had such an effect on his wife, that she was seized with a fever, which soon put a period to her life.

This disaster did not seem to make any impression on his mind; for, travelling soon after into Staffordshire, he married a second wife; but, returning to Coventry, he privately sold off his effects, and left the poor woman in circumstances of great distress.

It was not long after this before he commenced highwayman, and committed a variety of robberies on different roads, and at length became a housebreaker, which brought him to a fatal end.

At Farnham, in Surrey, lived a gentleman of fortune, named Newton, at whose house Neale thought he might acquire a considerable booty; and, in pursuance of this plan, he broke into the house at four o'clock in the morning, and, forcing open a bureau, stole several bank-notes, an East-India bond, between fifty and sixty pounds in cash, some medals of gold, and sundry other valuable articles.

Mr. Newton no sooner discovered the robbery than he sent off a messenger, with a letter to his brother in London, requesting that he would advertise the loss, and

stop payment of the notes. When Neale had committed the robbery he likewise proceeded towards London, and, when he came to Brentford, offered some watermen three and sixpence to row him to town; but this they refused, and Neale had no sooner got into another boat, which was putting from the shore, than the messenger arrived at Brentford; and the waterman, having entertained a suspicion of Neale, asked the man if he was in pursuit of a thief; and he replying in the affirmative, they pointed to the boat in which Neale was sitting.

On this the messenger hired another boat, and having overtaken him, found him wrapped up in a waterman's coat. The criminal being conducted before a magistrate, the stolen effects were found in his possession; on which he was ordered for commitment, and conveyed to Newgate the same day.

When the assizes for Surrey began, he was sent to Guildford, where he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction, his behaviour was such as might have been expected from one who was too hardened to repent of crimes which he did not hesitate to commit. His conduct was so totally improper for his situation, that even the keepers of the gaol seemed

to be shocked at his want of feeling, and advised him to amend his manners; but their advice was lost on one of the most abandoned of the human race.\*

This malefactor suffered on the 12th of April, 1750.

On a retrospect of this case it will appear that Neale's ignominious death arose principally from his dissolute conduct while an apprentice, which rivetted on him those habits of vice that contaminated all his future life. His friends were reputable, his prospects excellent, and his business was good: but a habit of idleness, and a love of what is falsely called pleasure (for there can be no real pleasure in vice), made his friends forsake him, destroyed his business, and overclouded all the hopeful prospects of his life.

From his fate let the rising generation learn the importance of diligence and sobriety: let them learn to obey their parents and masters, and all that are put in authority over them, as they would wish to be happy parents and reputable masters themselves, and have the pleasure of being obeyed in their turn in all their reasonable commands: so may they hope to live in credit, and die with the blessings of all who know them.

\* We could wish to caution housekeepers to look every evening about their houses, and particularly in their bedchambers, for lurking thieves, who often steal in unobserved about twilight, lie concealed until they find an opportunity of plundering, and, perhaps, murdering the family in their sleep. The following anecdote, among many similar circumstances which we have met with, may serve to strengthen our admonition.

Mrs. Lewis, who kept a public house at Hilsen, near Portsmouth, was one night alarmed, on going to bed, by observing the feet of a man below the window-curtain; at the same moment her young child, who slept with her, cried for beer, and, with a happy presence of mind, she answered that she would go down stairs and bring it drink. This fortunate pretence afforded her an opportunity of alarming her neighbours, who entered the house, and seized the villain, with a razor in his hand, with which he most likely meant to have cut her throat. It is remarkable that this woman's husband was, a few years before, shot by a robber of the name of Williams, who was executed for the murder, and his body at the time hanging in chains on South-Sea Common, adjoining Portsmouth.





*Captain Innis killed in a Duel by Captain Clarke.*

## CAPTAIN CLARKE, R. N.

CONVICTED OF MURDER.

THE Captains Innis and Clarke were commanders under Admiral Knowles (the first of the Warwick, and the latter of the Canterbury, line-of-battle ships, sixty-four guns each), when he obtained a victory over a Spanish fleet of equal force, and, taking from them the Conquistadore, ran their vice-admiral on shore, where she blew up, the rest escaping under favour of the night. It was the general opinion that, had the admiral availed himself of an opportunity, which at one time presented itself, of bringing up his fleet to bear at once upon the enemy, the whole might have been taken.

The issue of this battle was, therefore, unsatisfactory to the nation; and the admiral was called to account for his conduct before a

court-martial, held on board the royal yacht the Charlotte, at Deptford, which sat during nine days.

The decision of the Court, being unfavorable to the admiral, caused a divided opinion among the officers. It did not, however, affect the personal bravery of that commander; on the contrary, it appeared in evidence that he displayed the greatest intrepidity, exposing his person to imminent danger after his ship was disabled; but it also appeared that in manœuvring, previous to the engagement, he had not availed himself of an advantage, by which neglect the battle was begun by four of his vessels when six might have been brought up. The Court therefore determined that he fell under the 14th and 23d articles of war, namely, the

offence of 'negligence;' for which they sentenced him to be reprimanded.

This sentence caused much ill blood among the officers. The admiral had already been called out twice in duels with his captains, and had received more challenges of the same kind; but government, being apprized of the outrages, put a stop to them, by taking the challengers into custody.

Captain Clarke, it appears, had given evidence on the trial of the admiral, which displeased Captain Innis to so great a degree, that he called him a 'perjured rascal,' and charged him with giving false evidence. This was certainly language worse to be borne by an officer than rankling wounds, or even death. Captain Clarke being apprized that Innis, in this way, traduced and vilified him in all companies, gave him a verbal challenge, which the other accepted.

On the 12th of August, 1749, early in the morning, these gentlemen, attended by their seconds, met in Hyde Park. The pistols of Captain Clarke were screw-barrelled, and about seven inches long; those of Captain Innis were common pocket pistols, three inches and a half in the barrel. They were not more than five yards distant from each other, when they turned about, and Captain Clarke fired before Captain Innis had levelled his pistol. The ball took effect in the breast, of which wound Captain Innis expired at twelve o'clock the same night.

The coroner's jury found a verdict of wilful murder against Captain Clarke, on which he was apprehended, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to death. The king, in consideration of his services, and the bravery he displayed in fighting his

ship under Admiral Knowles, was pleased to grant him a free pardon.

There were other circumstances in this unfortunate rencontre which were favorable to Captain Clarke; his firing on turning round, and the fact of his pistol being larger than that of Captain Innis not being deemed unfair by the sanguinary rules of duelling, since Captain Innis might have provided himself with a large pair, had he pleased. But what pleaded powerfully in his behalf was the expression of the dying man, who acquitted and forgave him. When a soldier seized Captain Clarke, the former asked the wounded man what he should do with him, to which he faintly answered, 'Set him at liberty, for what he has done was my own seeking.'

On the 1st of June, 1750, being the last day of the sessions of the Old Bailey, Captain Clarke, among the other convicts, was brought up to receive sentence of death, when he pleaded his majesty's pardon, which had been then lately sent him, and which being recorded, he was discharged.

From the necessity of the esteem of others have arisen single combats. They are thought to have been unknown to the ancients, perhaps because they did not assemble in their temples, in their theatres, or with their friends, suspiciously armed with swords; and, perhaps, because single combats were a common spectacle exhibited to the people by gladiators, who were slaves, and whom freemen disdained to imitate.

In vain have the laws endeavored to abolish this custom by punishing the offenders with death. A man of honour, deprived of the esteem of others, foresees that he must be reduced either to a solitary existence, insupportable to a social

creature, or become the object of perpetual insult; considerations sufficient to overcome the fear of death.

It may not be without its use to repeat here what has been mentioned by other writers, *viz.* that the best method of preventing this

crime is to punish the aggressor; that is, the person who gave occasion to the duel; and to acquit him who, without any fault on his side, is obliged to defend that which is not sufficiently secured to him by the laws.

### MARGARET HARVEY,

EXECUTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

MRS. HARVEY was a native of the city of Dublin, and descended from parents of reputation, by whom she was educated in a very decent manner. She married the valet of a nobleman when she was only sixteen years of age; and her husband, soon afterwards procuring a lieutenant's commission on board a man of war, sailed in the service of his country.

Returning after an absence of six months, he became extremely jealous of his wife; but we have no account that he had then any cause for such jealousy. Be this as it may, he treated her with such severity that she left him, in apprehension that her life was in danger.

Some of her relations afforded her present support; but, when they began to think her troublesome, she went to her parents, who received her with the utmost affection: but her husband had art enough to persuade her father that she had no good cause to have left him; on which the old man insisted on her returning to her duty as a wife.

When she was again at home with him he treated her no less cruelly than heretofore; and, on a particular occasion, without any previous quarrel, he cut her on the arms and head with a hanger, so that she carried the marks to the grave; yet still she continued to love him with unabating affection.

At length, when she was on a

visit, in company with several other women, and complaining of the cruelty of her husband, they recommended her to avenge herself by quitting him, and putting herself under the protection of a gentleman who knew her situation, pitied her case, and would be proud to become her benefactor.

Fatally for her repose, she listened to this advice, and went to live with the stranger; on which her husband left Dublin, and set out for London.

The man who had thus been the indirect means of seducing her from her duty soon grew tired of her company, and quitted her, leaving her in circumstances of utter distress.

In this dilemma she determined to go in search of her husband, and solicit his forgiveness; and, with this view, sailed for England, and travelled to London; but her inquiries after him proving fruitless, she went into service in Marylebone Street, and remained about four months in that station.

When the fireworks were exhibited in St. James's Park, on occasion of the peace with France, she was permitted to go and see the extraordinary sight; and, while she was a spectator of that magnificent show, some women and seamen entered into conversation with her; and, going to a public house, they spent the night and following day in intemperance.

Ashamed now to return to her



service, she took a lodging in St. Giles's, and, becoming acquainted with some women of ill fame, who were supported by sailors that visited them, she soon became as abandoned in manners as her associates.

Some Irish seamen being acquainted with her, she went with them to Wapping; and, having drank very freely, she was met on her return home by a gentleman, who took her to a tavern, where she found means to rob him of his gold watch; but, being taken into custody that night, she was lodged in the Round-house, and committed to Newgate the following day.

Being brought to trial at the Old Bailey sessions, she was capitally convicted; but, pleading that she was with child, she was respited till the year 1750, when sentence of death was passed on her.

While in this distressed situation, she acknowledged that she should not have pleaded being with child, but that she had hopes of obtaining a pardon on condition of transportation; and on the arrival of the warrant for her execution she wrung her hands, cried exceedingly, and lamented the misfortunes which first induced her to come to London.

On the morning of her execution she was visited by some of her countrywomen, who, having privately brought in some brandy, induced her to drink such a quantity of it, that she died in an absolute state of intoxication; though before this circumstance she had exhibited every real sign of penitence and contrition.

She was executed at Tyburn on the 6th of July, 1750.

### JAMES COOPER,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

This man was the son of a butcher at Lexton, in Essex; and his father, who had wholly neglected his education, employed him in his own business when he was only ten years of age. Having lived with his father till he was twenty-two, he then married, and opened a shop at Colchester, where he dealt largely as a butcher, and likewise became a cattle-jobber.

At the end of thirteen years, Cooper, through neglect, found his losses so considerable that he could no longer carry on business; and, one of his creditors arresting him, he was thrown into the King's-Bench prison; but, as his wife still carried on trade, he was enabled to purchase the rules. Soon after this,

the marshal of the King's Bench dying, he was obliged to pay for the rules a second time.

He now sued for an allowance of the groats;\* and they were paid him for about a year, when, through neglect of payment, he got out of prison, and took a shop in the Mint, Southwark, where he carried on his business with some success, his wife maintaining the family in the country.

At length he was arrested by another creditor, and waited two years for the benefit of an act of insolvency. On his going to Guildford, to take the benefit of the act, he found that the marshal had not inserted his name in the list with those of the other prisoners; and,

\* By 23d George II. debtors, after being a certain time in prison, might claim the benefit therein imposed upon the plaintiff in the suit on which they were confined; being fourpence per day; and in default of any one weekly instalment they were entitled to their discharge; but the expense of moving the Court to this end was generally too great for the prisoner to bear.



having informed his creditor of this circumstance, the marshal was obliged to pay debt and costs, the debtor was discharged, and the marshal fined one hundred pounds for his neglect.

Cooper having now obtained his liberty, and his wife dying about the same time, and leaving four children, he sent for them to London; and, not long afterwards, married a widow, who had an equal number of children.

He now, unfortunately, got acquainted with Duncalf and Burrell, the former a notorious thief, and the latter a soldier in the guards; and these men advising him to commence robber, he fatally complied with their solicitations; and the following is an account of a number of robberies which they committed.

Between Stockwell and Clapham they overtook two men, one of whom, speaking of the probability of being attacked by footpads, drew a knife, and swore he would kill any man who should presume to molest them. The parties all drank together on the road, and then proceeded towards London, when Cooper threw down the man who was armed with the knife, and took it from him, and then robbed him and his acquaintance of a watch, about twenty shillings, and their handkerchiefs.

Their next robbery was on Mr. James, a tailor, whom they stopped on the road to Dulwich, and took from him his watch and money. He gave an immediate alarm, which occasioned a pursuit; but the thieves effected their escape. Two of the three robbers wearing soldiers' clothes, Mr. James presumed that they were of the guards; and, going to the Parade in St. James's park, he fixed on two soldiers as the parties who had robbed him.

As it happened that these men had been to Dulwich about the time that the robbery had been committed, they were sent to prison, and brought to trial: but were acquitted.

The accomplices in iniquity being in waiting for prey near Bromley, Duncalf saw a gentleman riding along the road; and, kneeling down, he seized the bridle, and obliged him to quit his horse, when the others robbed him of his watch and two guineas and a half.

Meeting soon afterwards with a man and woman on one horse, near Farnborough, in Kent, they ordered them to quit the horse, robbed them of near forty shillings, and then permitted them to pursue their journey. Soon after the commission of this robbery they heard the voices of a number of people who were in pursuit of them: on which Cooper turned about, and they passed him, but seized on Burrell, one of them exclaiming 'This is one of the rogues that just robbed my brother and sister!'

On this Burrell fired a pistol into the air, to intimidate the pursuers, among whom were two soldiers, whom Duncalf and Cooper encountered at this instant, one of them was so dangerously wounded by his own sword, which Duncalf wrested from his hand, that he was sent as an invalid to Chelsea, where he finished his life.

The brother of the parties robbed, and a countryman, contested the matter with the thieves, till the former was thrown on the ground, where Burrell beat him so violently that he died on the spot. The robbers now took their way to London, where they arrived without being pursued.

Cooper and Duncalf, the latter being provided with a bag, went once to a farm-house, and stole all

the fowls that were at roost; and Duncalf saying, 'The first man we meet must buy my chickens,' they had not travelled far before they met with a man whom they asked to buy the fowls. He said he did not want any; but they seized his horse's bridle, knocked him down, and robbed him of above twelve pounds, with his hat and wig, watch and great coat.

On one of their walks towards Camberwell they met a man of fortune, named Ellish, whose servant was lighting him home from a club. Putting pistols to the gentleman's breast, his servant attempted to defend him; on which they knocked him down with a bludgeon; and the master still hesitating to deliver, they threw him on the ground, and robbed him of his money, watch, and other articles; and, tying him and his servant back to back, threw them into a ditch, where they lay in a helpless manner till a casual passenger released them from their disagreeable situation.

The villains now returned towards London. In their way, meeting a man with a sack of stolen venison, they robbed him of his great coat and thirty-six shillings; and, a few nights afterwards, they robbed a man of a few shillings on the Hammersmith road, and destroyed a lantern which he carried, that he should not be able to make any pursuit after them.

On their return home they met a man on horseback, whom they would have robbed; but, turning his horse suddenly, he rode to Kensington turnpike, and gave an alarm, while the thieves got through a hedge, and concealed themselves in a field. In the interim, the man they had robbed of a few shillings brought a number of people to take the thieves; but, not finding them, though within their hearing, the

man went towards his home alone; but the rogues, pursuing him, took a stick from him, and beat him severely for attempting to raise the country on them.

Immediately afterwards they hastened towards Brompton, and stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of his watch and money. The gentleman had a dog, which flew at the thieves; but Cooper, coaxing the animal into good humour, immediately killed him.

Their next expedition was to Paddington, where they concealed themselves behind a hedge, till, observing two persons on horseback, they robbed them of their watches, great coats, and twelve guineas; and though an immediate alarm was given, and many persons pursued them, they escaped over the fields as far as Hampstead Heath, and came from thence to London.

Soon afterwards they stopped a gentleman between Kingsland and Stoke Newington, who whipped Duncalf so that he must have yielded, but that Cooper at the instant struck the gentleman to the ground. They then robbed him of above seventeen pounds, and, tying his hands behind him, threw him over a hedge, in which situation he remained till some milkmen relieved him on the following morning.

Meeting a man between Knightsbridge and Brompton, who had a shoulder of veal with him, they demanded his money; instead of delivering which, the man knocked Cooper down three times with his veal: but the villains, getting the advantage, robbed the man of his hat and meat, but could find no money in his possession.

Cooper being incensed against the person who had first arrested him, who was Mrs. Pearson, of Hill Farm, in Essex, determined to rob her; on which he and his accomplices

went to the place, and, learning that she was on a visit, waited till her return at night; when they stopped her and her servant, and robbed them of eight guineas.

On the following day Mrs. Pearson went to a magistrate, and charged a person named Loader with having committed the robbery; but it appearing that this man was a prisoner for debt at the time, the charge necessarily fell to the ground.

Cooper and his associates meeting a farmer, named Jackson, in a lane near Croydon, he violently opposed them: on which they knocked him down, and, dragging him into a field, robbed him of his watch and money, tied him to a tree, and turned his horse loose on a common.

For this robbery two farriers, named Shelton and Kellet, were apprehended; and, being tried at the next assizes for Surrey, the latter was acquitted, but the former was convicted on the positive oath of the person robbed, and suffered death.

The three accomplices, being out on the road near Dulwich, met two gentlemen on horseback, one of whom got from them by the goodness of his horse; and the other attempted to do so, but was knocked down, and robbed of his watch and money. In the interim, the party who had rode off, whose name was Saxby, fastened his horse to a gate, and came back to relieve his friend: but the robbers first knocked him down, and then shot him.

Having stripped him of what money he had, they hastened towards London: but a suspicion arising that Duncalf was concerned in this robbery and murder, he was taken into custody on the following day; and, Cooper being taken up on his

information, Burrell surrendered, and was admitted an evidence for the crown.

William Duncalf was a native of Ireland, and had received a decent education. He was apprenticed to a miller, who would not keep him on account of his knavish disposition; and, being unable to procure employment in Ireland, he came to London, where he officiated as a porter on the quays.

Extravagant in his expenses, and abandoned in principle, he commenced smuggler: but, being taken into custody by the custom-house officers, he gave information against some other smugglers; by which he procured his discharge, and was himself made a custom-house officer.

A variety of complaints respecting the neglect of his duty having been preferred to the commissioners of the customs, he was dismissed, and once more commenced smuggler. Among his other offences, he alleged a crime against a custom-house officer, who was transported in consequence of Duncalf's perjured testimony.

We have already recounted many of his notorious crimes, in conjunction with his accomplices above mentioned: but he did not live to suffer the punishment that he merited; for he had not been long in prison before the flesh rotted from his bones, and he died a dreadful monument of the Divine vengeance, though not before he had acknowledged the number and enormity of his crimes.

Cooper frequently expressed himself in terms of regret that a villain so abandoned as Burrell should escape the hands of justice. In other respects his behaviour was very resigned, and becoming his unhappy situation. He acknowledged that he had frequently deliberated with Burrell on the in-

tended murder of Duncalf, lest he should become an evidence against them: but he now professed his happiness that this murder had not been added to the black catalogue of his crimes.

When brought to trial he pleaded guilty, and confessed all the circumstances of the murder; and, after sentence was passed against him, appeared to be a sincere penitent for the errors of his past life.

Being visited by a clergyman and his son, who had known him in his better days, he was questioned respecting the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, which he denied; but he had no sooner done so than he was seized with the utmost remorse of mind, which the gaoler attributed to the dread of being hung in chains; and, questioning him on this subject, he said that he was indifferent about the disposal of his body, but wished to communicate something to the clergyman who attended him; and, when he had an opportunity, confessed that his uneasiness arose from the consciousness of having denied the rob-

bery of Mrs. Pearson, of which he was really guilty.

Cooper suffered on Kennington Common, August 26, 1750.

Few offenders commit such a number of crimes as this man did before they are called to answer for them at the most awful tribunal. From his fate we may learn that a continuance in villainy is so far from affording security, that it effectually leads to ruin.

Habits of vice are not easily shaken off; and those of virtue are equally apt to remain with us. What a lesson does this afford for the practice of early piety, which will essentially influence all our future lives!

Parents should remember that an education strictly religious is the best foundation for their children's future conduct in life.

What bless'd examples do we find,  
Writ in the word of truth,  
Of children that began to mind  
Religion in their youth!

On the contrary, how many instances do we meet with, in which the want of a religious education is productive of every vice!

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### WILLIAM SMITH,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

IRELAND gave birth to this malefactor, whose father was Rector of Kilmore; and who, having given him a tolerable idea of the learned languages at home, sent him to Trinity College, Dublin, to finish his education; and then placed him with an attorney of eminence.

His father dying before the expiration of his clerkship, he abandoned himself so much to his pleasures that he was induced to commit a forgery on his master; in consequence of which he received a considerable sum: but, being afraid of detection, he resolved to quit his native country.

Hereupon he entered as captain's clerk on board a man of war, and behaved with propriety till about the time that the ship was paid off, when he took to the dangerous practice of forging seamen's tickets: for the captain employing him to make out tickets for the men, he made several of them payable to himself, and disposed of them for above a hundred pounds, and likewise secreted about a hundred pounds more, which were due for wages to the seamen, and stole a sum of money belonging to the surgeon's mate; with all which he decamped.



Repairing to London, he took the name of Dawson, and served some time as clerk to an attorney; but his employer going into the country, and Smith knowing that he had capital connexions in Ireland, he forged a letter in his name on a merchant in Dublin, for one hundred and thirty pounds, and, going over with it himself, received the sum demanded, partly in cash, and partly in bank-notes: on which he took his passage to England, and received the amount of the notes in London.

His appearance in the capital now becoming very dangerous, he strolled about the country till he was almost reduced to poverty, when he again went to Ireland, where he forged an order for the payment of one hundred and seventy-four pounds nineteen shillings, which he received, and brought to England, though a King's Bench warrant was issued for his apprehension in Ireland, and he was likewise indicted in that country.

Assuming a false name, he secreted himself more than half a year in England; when, being reduced to poverty, he was met by a gentleman who knew him, who, remarking on the meanness of his appearance, seemed surprised that, with his abilities, he should be destitute of the conveniences of life.

Smith told a deplorable tale of poverty; said that he was in a bad state of health, and unable to visit his friends in his present situation; on which the gentleman clothed him decently, gave him money, and recommended him to a physician, whose skill restored him to health in a short time.

Thus reinstated for the present in fortune and constitution, he no

longer visited his benefactors, and was soon reduced to his former state of distress.

His friend again meeting him, in the usual wretched plight, asked him the occasion of it; on which he said that, being indebted for lodging, he was obliged to sell his clothes; and that he did not call to thank the physician because his appearance was so exceedingly abject.

Hereupon his friend once more supplied him with clothes; on which he went to see the physician, who desired him to repose himself awhile, and conversed with him in the most sociable way. Smith, arising, as if to depart, presented a pistol to the doctor's face, and threatened his destruction if he did not instantly give him five guineas: but the other, with great indifference, told him that he was an old man, not afraid of death; that he might act as he thought proper; but that, if he perpetrated his design, the report of the pistol would infallibly be heard by his servants; and that the consequence would prove fatal to himself.

Having said this, the gentleman refused to deliver the money demanded; on which Smith was so terrified, that he dropped on his knees, wept with apparent concern for his offence, and begged pardon with such appearance of sincerity, that the physician's humanity was excited, and he gave him three guineas, with his best advice for the reformation of his conduct.

Not long after this Smith casually met an acquaintance named Weeks, who, stopping at a shop to receive forty-five pounds for a bill of exchange, was paid only ten pounds in part, being desired to call for the rest on a future day. Smith, having witnessed what passed, forged Mr.

Weeks' name to a receipt for the remaining thirty-five pounds, which he received, and embarked for Holland before the villainy was discovered.

The next offence this malefactor committed, or rather intended to commit, afforded the immediate occasion of his being brought to justice. Going to the seat of Sir Edward Walpole, near Windsor, and demanding to see him, he told him he had a bond from Sir Edward to a person named Paterson, who being in distressed circumstances, he (Smith) was commissioned to deliver the bond on a trifling consideration: but Sir Edward, knowing that no such bond subsisted, seized the villain, and committed him to the care of his servants, who conducted him before a magistrate, by whom he was committed to prison at Reading.

He was examined by different justices of the peace on four successive days: but all that he confessed was, that he was born at Andover. This, however, could not be credited, as the tone of his voice testified that he was a native of Ireland; on which he was committed to the gaol at Reading for farther examination.

Smith's transactions having rendered him the subject of public conversation, a suspicion arose that he (though then unknown) was the party who had defrauded Mr. Weeks; on which notice of the affair was sent to London; and Mr. Weeks, going to Reading, knew him to be the person who had forged the receipt in his name.

Hereupon he was removed to Newgate, and the next sessions at

the Old Bailey was capitally convicted; and, though the jury recommended him to mercy, this could not be obtained, as his character was notorious, and there were five indictments against him.

From the time of his commitment he behaved in the most penitent manner, expressing the utmost compunction for the crimes of which he had been guilty, and preparing for death with every sign of unfeigned repentance; though, for some time, he reflected on the Honorable Edward Walpole\* as the author of his destruction, by an interception of the royal mercy; but, being assured that Sir Edward had not interposed to injure him, he took the whole blame of his misfortunes on himself.

He was so reduced in circumstances before the day of execution, and so utterly destitute of friends to procure him a decent interment, that he was induced to insert the following advertisement in the newspapers:

'In vain has mercy been entreated; the vengeance of Heaven has overtaken me; I bow myself in repining to the fatal stroke. Thanks to my all-gracious Creator, thanks to my most merciful Saviour, I go to launch into the unfathomable gulf of eternity!

'Oh, my poor soul! how strongly dost thou hope for the completion of eternal felicity! Almighty Jehovah, I am all resignation to thy blessed will! Immaculate Jesus! Oh, send some ministering angel to conduct me to the bright regions of celestial happiness.

'As to my corporeal frame, it is

\* This honorable gentleman was basely beset by a gang of conspirators, instigated by one John Cather, who, while he received Mr. Walpole's protection, made so ill a return as to be turned out of his house; and Smith was implicated as having had connexion with that gang of villains.

unworthy of material notice ; but, for the sake of that reputable family from whom I am descended, I cannot refrain from anxiety, when I think how easily this poor body, in my friendless and necessitous condition, may fall into the possession of the surgeons, and perpetuate my disgrace beyond the severity of the law. So great an impoverishment has my long confinement brought upon me, that I have not a shilling left for subsistence, much less for the procuring the decency of an interment.

‘ Therefore, I do most fervently entreat the generosity of the humane and charitably compassionate to afford me such a contribution as may be sufficient to protect my dead body from indecency, and to give me the consolation of being assured that my poor ashes shall be decently deposited within the limits of consecrated ground.

‘ The deprivation of life is a sufficient punishment for my crimes, even in the rigorous eye of offended Justice : after death she has permitted my remains to pass without further ignominy ; then why should Inhumanity lay her butchering hands on an inoffensive carcass ? Ah ! rather give me the satisfaction of thinking I shall return to my parent dust within the confines of a grave.

‘ Those who compassionate my deplorable situation are desired to send their humane contributions to Mrs. Browning’s, next door to the Golden Acorn, in Little Wild Street ; and that Heaven may reward their charitable disposition is the dying prayer of the lost and unhappy  
 ‘ WILLIAM SMITH.’

When brought into the press-yard, and bound with a halter, he dropped upon his knees, and prayed

very devoutly, and, acknowledging his crimes, said he died in charity with all mankind, and hoped for forgiveness at the great tribunal ; which, in the sublime lines of the poet, he thus addressed :

‘ Thee I will sing, Almighty Maker ! thee,  
 Father of all ! Whether the rising sun  
 Sheds forth his golden beams, or when at  
 night  
 The moon unveils her orb, thou art my  
 strength,  
 My life, my glory, and my sure defence ;  
 My castle, my deliverance, my hope ;  
 My better hope, when dread Affliction’s  
 hand,  
 Wide wasting, me o’erwhelms.’

It would be strange if this address, so calculated to impress the feeling heart, had not produced the intended effect. Mrs. Browning advertised that the subscriptions of the humane were sufficient to answer the proposed end.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 3d of October, 1750.

Forgery, in any case, is a crime of great magnitude : but the forgeries of this man were aggravated by being committed to the prejudice of his best benefactors, or of those who were little able to sustain the loss. His ingratitude was very extraordinary : let us hope that his penitence was equally so ; and that the readers of this work may never be tempted to acts of equal ingratitude, or crimes of equal enormity.

It is remarkable of many offenders, that they take more pains to perpetrate their villainies than they would do to support themselves in the most reputable manner. This is a strong argument, if there were no other, against acts of dishonesty ; but there is no person who is not devoid of common sense, and who has a proper regard to his happiness, temporal and eternal, but will be honest on superior motives.

## AMY HUTCHINSON,

BURN'T FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND.

THE Isle of Ely gave birth to this malefactor. She was the daughter of parents who were rather in low circumstances, yet contrived to keep her at school till she was twelve years of age; rightly judging that a tolerable education is frequently the groundwork of prudent and dutiful behaviour.

At the age of sixteen she was grown a fine tall girl; at which time she was addressed by a young man, whose love she returned with equal affection. Her father, being apprized of the connexion, strictly charged his daughter to decline it: but there was no arguing against love; the connexion continued till it became criminal.

The young fellow beginning to grow tired of her, though he had seduced her under promise of marriage, declared his resolution of going to London, but said that he would wed her on his return. Shocked at this apparent infidelity, she determined on revenge: a revenge that proved fatal to herself, and which she had but too easy a method of carrying into execution.

The former lover had no sooner left her than she was addressed by a young man named John Hutchinson; and, though he had been always extremely disagreeable to her, she agreed to marry him the very next day after he had paid her a formal visit.

The consequence was, that the marriage took place immediately; but her first admirer happening to return from London just as the newly-wedded pair were coming out of church, the bride was greatly affected at the recollection of former scenes, and the irrevocable ceremony which had now passed.

Unable to love the man she had married, she doted to distraction on him she had lost; and, only a few days after her marriage, admitted him to his former intimacy with her; a circumstance that gave full scope to the scandal-loving tongues of her neighbours.

Hutchinson becoming jealous of his wife, a quarrel ensued, in consequence of which he beat her with great severity: but this producing no alteration in her conduct, he had recourse to drinking, with a view to avoid the pain of reflection on his situation.

In the interim his wife and the young fellow continued their guilty intercourse uninterrupted; but, considering the life of her husband as a bar to their happiness, it was resolved to remove him by poison; for which purpose the wife purchased a quantity of arsenic; and Mr. Hutchinson being afflicted with an ague, and wishing for something warm to drink, the wife put some arsenic in ale, of which he drank very plentifully; and then she left him, saying she would go and buy something for his dinner.

Meeting her lover, she acquainted him with what had passed; on which he advised her to buy more poison, fearing the first might not be sufficient to operate; but its effects were too fatal, for he died about dinner-time on the same day.

Her mother visiting her on the day that the unhappy man died, and being suspicious, from her former conduct, that some indirect methods had been used to destroy him, she said 'I am afraid you have done something to your husband;' to which Mrs. Hutchinson only said



'What makes you think so, mother?'

The deceased was buried on the following Sunday, and the next day the former lover renewed his visits; which occasioning the neighbours to talk very freely of the affair, the young widow was taken into custody the same day on suspicion of having committed the murder.

The body of the deceased being now taken up, the coroner's jury was summoned, and the verdict they gave was, 'That John Hutchinson had died by poison:' on which the woman was committed to the gaol at Ely.

She had counsel to plead for her on the trial; but the evidence against her being such as satisfied the jury, she was convicted, and ordered for execution.

After conviction, she confessed the justice of those laws by which she had been condemned. She was attended by a clergyman, to whom she acknowledged the magnitude of her crime, and professed the most unfeigned penitence.

Though it does not appear that the base seducer of this unfortunate woman was brought to punishment, yet we are sure that his conscience haunted him with stings to the very last hour of his guilty life.

Amy Hutchinson was burnt and strangled at Ely on the 7th of November, 1750.

The miserable woman, willing to make atonement for her crimes, left a written paper with the clergyman who attended her in her last moments, on which was the following excellent advice to her own sex:

'All the good I can now do, after my repentance and abhorrence of my abominable crime, and prayers to God, is,

'First, To warn all young women to acquaint their friends when any addresses are made to them; and, above all, if any base or immodest man dare to insult you with any thing shocking to chaste ears.

'Secondly, That they should never leave the person they are engaged to in a pet, nor wed another, to whom they are indifferent, in spite; for, if they come together without affection, the smallest matter will separate them.

'Thirdly, That, being married, all persons should mutually love, forgive, and forbear: and afford no room for busy meddlers to raise and foment jealousy between two who should be one.

'(Signed) AMY HUTCHINSON.'

## JOHN VICARS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

This malefactor was the son of a farmer at Doddington, in the Isle of Ely, who dying in the infancy of his son, the mother married another husband, who paid no regard to the education of the child.

At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to the Earl of Leicester's gardener, with whom he served his time, and afterwards lived with him as a journeyman; but soon quitted his station, in consequence

of an illicit connexion with a married woman, whose husband vowed revenge for the insult.

After this he lived nearly a year with Mr. Bridgman, gardener, at Kensington, and might have continued longer; but, having a propensity to the life of a sailor, he entered on board the Exeter man of war.

This ship being soon paid off, Vicars associated himself with a

gang of Sussex smugglers, in consequence of which he was apprehended by a party of dragoons, committed to the new gaol, Southwark, and brought to trial; but had the good fortune to be acquitted.

After this he worked as a gardener at Chelsea, with Mr. Millar, the celebrated botanist; and he likewise worked at other places round the country; but his attachment to women was such, that he was compelled to leave his service more than once.

Having served as a gardener to many gentlemen, he went to his native place, and married; but lived unhappily with his wife, whose ill state of health helped to sour her temper, so that frequent quarrels ensued. Having served as a dragoon during part of the rebellion in 1745, he was discharged, and went home; but his wife died within a year after his return.

He continued a widower about a year, in which time, observing one Mary Hainsworth to keep a great deal of company, he asked her one evening if they were all her sweethearts; she replied, No. He then offered himself, met with great encouragement, and from that time seems to have been refused no favours. But he had no intention of marriage, nor did he promise any such thing. They continued a criminal familiarity for a fortnight, all which time she pressed him to marry her. He told her there was no occasion for her to be in such a hurry; but she replied she was with child; and, if he would not marry her, she would get a warrant and force him. He said he should not care to be forced to do any thing against his will; on which she replied, if he would not marry her she would certainly make away with herself. He then kept away for two or

three nights, to see how she would behave.

In the mean time came a hackney-coachman to the town, with whom she seemed to be so very much taken, that a woman who worked in his garden told him he had lost his sweetheart. He said he was glad of that (thinking he had got a good riddance); but he was not so fortunate; for, two or three nights after this, the coachman left the place; on which she flung herself in his way, and he was so simple as to renew their former acquaintance, but not on the score of marriage, which she well knew, and agreed readily to keep him company; but, after two or three nights, she threatened him again with a warrant if he would not marry her. At last his affections growing stronger, on her repeated assurances that she would make him a careful and industrious wife, he unfortunately married her; but not till he had earnestly desired that, if there was any other person for whom she had a greater respect than himself, she would consider of it, as, when once married, it would be too late.

This unhappy woman had learned the glover's business, which she followed, and they lived very lovingly for about two months; but after that time, according to his own statement, words frequently arose between them, occasioned by her adhering to bad advice given her by her mother and others, by some of whom, she owed to him, she was advised to poison him. From words they came to blows, to which she provoked him, though he entreated her to forbear. At length she went away from him to live with her mother; and, notwithstanding the most earnest entreaties, refused to return.

One day, going by her mother's

house with some fruit, and seeing his wife there, he offered her some fruit, and forced a kiss from her, desiring to be reconciled. Her mother came in, and, after giving loose to her tongue in a virulent manner, fell to beating him, swearing she would kill him, and advising his wife, who had a knife in her hand, to stab him, which she endeavored to do; but he, feeling something against his belly, ran backwards to the door, and fell upon the threshold, with the old woman upon him: he rolled her off, and, getting up, found his thumb cut, a hole in his shirt, and the skin ruffled; then, thinking himself in great danger, he went home. But his mother-in-law and his wife swore the peace against him, and had a warrant to take him up. Upon April 24, therefore, to prevent their serving it, he went to a gentleman's about three miles from Whittlesea, to beg his advice, which was to make a bill of sale of his goods, and go off. He resolved to do so, and came back to Whittlesea about six o'clock the same evening. By the way, on seeing his wife in a new shop which her mother had provided for her, his heart beat with love for her; but on the thoughts of her obstinacy, and that his life or ruin was what they aimed at by laying him in gaol, his resentment got the better of his reason. He stepped into the shop where she was sitting at work, and, placing his left hand under her chin, (he apprehended she thought he was going to kiss her, because she seemed to smile,) and, drawing his knife out of his pocket with the other, he made an attempt to cut her throat, but was prevented by her putting her hands up when she felt the knife. He then placed the point of the knife under her left ear, the back part upward, and

stuck it downward as they stick sheep. She once cried 'Murder!' He said, 'Molly, 'tis now too late, you should have been ruled in time.'

He then ran into the street and called out for somebody to take him prisoner, but every one was afraid: he threatened if they did not he would do more mischief; on which one Thomas Boone taking hold of his arm, he surrendered himself; but appeared as a lunatic till next day, when he was very calm. The above account was signed by himself; and, it being reported that he had committed more murders, he further desired that might be explained as follows:

While he was gardener to R. Man, Esq. the garden was often robbed; on which his master set him to watch one night, armed with a gun and a hanger, and fixed a trap at the supposed place of entrance. The thief came, and soon saw reason to run off; but Vicars cut him in the leg with his banger; besides which he was so unfortunate as to be taken in the trap, the teeth of which, reaching about the middle of his body, struck into him; so that being carried before a justice, and committed to Maidstone gaol, he soon after died of his wounds; 'but this I apprehend' says he, 'cannot be deemed a murder.'

While in prison he said that he dearly loved his wife; but her provocations were so great that he could not let her live, nor live without her, he having first intended to kill himself also. He persisted in it that he should do the same again on like provocation.

Vicars suffered with Amy Hutchinson at Ely, Nov. 7, 1750. At the place of execution he behaved very penitently, praying with the minister, and singing the VIth Psalm, which he chose, and joined also



in Hutchinson's Psalm (LI.) He shook hands with several, and bowed to the company, affecting much discourse, and reflecting on several people of Whittlesea by name; in short, the conduct of the man was such, and there was in him such a mixture of penitence and unconcern, that sensible people were at a loss how to pronounce their opinion about him. He desired to see the woman first dispatched; and accordingly, her face and hands being smeared with tar, and having a garment daubed with pitch, after a short prayer, the executioner strangled her. He went then to Vicars, who, very undauntedly helping him to fix the knot, immediately threw himself off, and expired in a few minutes.

Amy Hutchinson and John Vicars, who thus suffered together—

the one for the murder of her husband, the other for destroying his wife—underwent different punishments. It has been already observed that the consuming of the strangled body of a woman for such a crime has been of late years dispensed with; for, though it seldom gave an additional pang, yet it shocked humanity in a ten-fold degree. This part of the sentence of the law was, nevertheless, founded on a well-known part of the Christian system of religion, which says, 'That wives should be obedient to their husbands in all things.' Hence the law dealt more severely with a woman, by deeming her crime petit treason, next in degree to high treason, while his encompassing the death of the reigning king, who is deemed the common parent of his subjects.

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### WILLIAM RILEY,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WILLIAM RILEY served the greater part of his apprenticeship to a watchmaker at Liverpool, but his master dying, he turned his mind to the sea, and sailed one voyage, which it appears was sufficient to induce him to quit the watery element for service upon land; and to this end he enlisted into the second regiment of foot-guards.

From the circumstance which led to the fatal crime for which this youth suffered we find that walking matches, of recent years revived, were then in great vogue. Considerable bets were depending on a man walking three hundred miles in six days, a feat little inferior to Captain Barclay's thousand miles in as many successive hours. This wager was determined in Tottenham, Westminster, in favour of the pedestrian.

Riley, also a great walker, was so much interested in the man's success that he undertook to clear the way; but on the last day the crowd became so great, that he, in his anxiety, struck several who did not fall back; and, among the rest, one Sutton, who returned the blow, whereupon a scuffle ensued, and Riley, being thrown down by the mob, drew his sword, and stabbed Sutton, of which wound he died; and Riley was found guilty of wilful murder.

After sentence of death he was very penitent, and expressed his deep contrition for taking away the life of a fellow-creature.

He confessed that he had done one more bad deed, which lay heavy on his mind. He said that one of his comrades living on bad terms with his wife, and being jealous of him without cause, he



offered to take her if the other would give her up. Accordingly they all went to the Fleet his comrade threw the certificate of marriage into the fire, and Riley and the woman were immediately married; and this, he feared, was wicked in the eyes of God, of

which, however, he sincerely repented.

He was executed along with George Robins, George Anderson, and Thomas Reynolds, in the year 1750, when only nineteen years of age.



*Everett seized by a Dog while attempting to rob a Gentleman.*

## JOHN EVERETT, *ALIAS* GEORGE ANDERSON,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

This man was a native of Hertford, in which town he served his apprenticeship to a baker. The young men in the neighborhood declined associating with him, and held him in universal abhorrence, so ungracious were his manners, and so strong his propensity to wickedness. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he connected himself with a gang of notorious gamblers, and other dissolute wretches, in conjunction with

whom he perpetrated a great number of villainies, but for several years escaped the vengeance of the law.

By persuasions, and the promise of a sum of money, Everett, and a man named Wright, induced a young woman to exhibit a charge of felony against two innocent men, who were put on their trial, but happily acquitted, as the perjured evidence was not able to authenticate her accusation. In revenge

for their failing to supply the girl with the money they had promised, she lodged an information against Everett and Wright, who were in consequence indicted for subornation of perjury, and sentenced to stand on the pillory at the end of Chancery Lane, where they received very severe treatment from the populace.

Soon after the above punishment had been inflicted, Everett was tried at Hicks's Hall, and sentenced again to stand on the pillory, for having fraudulently obtained a thirty-six shilling piece. He was afterwards convicted of having circulated counterfeit Portugal coin, and ordered to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate.

Soon after Everett's trial a company of gentlemen went to Newgate to visit a criminal, and in a short time they discovered that they had been robbed of their handkerchiefs. The circumstance being mentioned to Everett, he pretended to be much surprised, and intimated that there was but little probability of the property being recovered. However, in a little time he produced the handkerchiefs, and received some money from the gentlemen, as a reward for his supposed honesty.

While he remained in Newgate he picked the pocket of almost every person who came to visit the prisoners: he was continually uttering the most reprobate speeches, and seemed to delight in the practice of every species of wickedness. Upon the expiration of the time he was sentenced to remain in prison he found sureties for his good behaviour for two years, and was discharged.

Having stopped a young gentleman in Fleet Street, he was asked if a robbery was intended; upon which he knocked the gentleman

down, but a large dog belonging to the injured party immediately seized the villain, who with great difficulty disengaged himself just time enough to escape being secured by the watch.

Everett and a woman of the town went to a small inn at Hoddesden, in Hertfordshire, which was kept by an ancient widow, and, being invited into a room behind the bar, after having each drank a glass of wine, the widow and her female guest went to walk in the garden: in the mean time Everett broke open a bureau, and stole sixty pounds in cash, and several gold rings. They kept the widow in conversation till the time of going to bed, in order to divert her from going to the bureau; and the next morning decamped with their booty.

They took the road to Nottingham, whence they crossed the country to Newmarket, and then returned to London. Everett's numerous villainies had rendered his name so notorious, that he was fearful of being apprehended; and therefore he went under the denomination of George Anderson, and lived in a very private manner till the money he had so wickedly obtained was expended.

He now procured a knife eighteen inches long, and determined to levy contributions on passengers on the highway. In the road between Kentishtown and Hampstead, he attempted to rob a countryman, who, being of an intrepid temper, a desperate contest ensued, in which Everett proved the conqueror, and dangerously wounded his antagonist, from whom he, however, obtained but a small booty.

At length he was detected in stealing a quantity of riband in a shop in London, and was apprehended, but not without making a

vigorous resistance, in doing which he dangerously wounded the shop-keeper in the face and hands.

For this crime he was tried at the Old Bailey, convicted, and received sentence of death. The night after the warrant for his execution arrived he laid a plan to escape. He was furnished with implements for this purpose, and for sawing off his fetters, by his wife and his kept mistress, who, on this occasion, agreed. Being discovered, the former was sent to one of the Compters, and his concubine to the other. On this he behaved so insolently and outrageously that it was necessary to chain him to the floor of his cell, where he remained blaspheming and threatening vengeance to the keeper and turnkeys.

A report being circulated that he meditated a design against the life of the gaoler, his cell was carefully searched, but no suspicious instruments were found.

Whether he really harbored the design of murdering the keeper is a matter of doubt. He denounced vengeance against the man who gave the information, declaring, with horrid imprecations, that, if he could procure a pistol, or any other offensive weapon, he would put him to death.

He joined in prayer with the Ordinary of Newgate at the place of execution, but declined addressing

the populace; and, a little time before being turned off, said he considered death as too severe a punishment for the crime he had committed.

On the 31st of December, 1750, this offender was executed at Tyburn.

Everett's propensity to wickedness was apparent in his earliest years; and, though he found himself universally despised by all who were not abandoned like himself, he neglected to effect a reformation in his manners, whereby he might have removed all prejudices against him, and have become a respectable member of the community. He had lived without regard either to religious or moral obligations: but the utmost distraction of mind was occasioned by the upbraidings of a guilty conscience, and the terrible approach of death. The miserable situation of this man exhibits a striking proof of the justice with which Shakspeare has put the following lines into the mouth of a man oppressed with guilt:—

‘ ——— Pray I cannot,  
Though inclination be as sharp as 'twill;  
My stronger guilt defeats my strong intent;  
And, like a man to double business bound,  
I stand in pause where I shall first begin,  
And both neglect.  
—O wretched state! O bosom black as  
death!  
O limed soul, that, struggling to get free,  
Art more engaged!’

### JAMES MACLANE,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THE subject of this memoir was descended from a reputable family in the north of Scotland; but his father, after being liberally educated in the University of Glasgow, went to settle at Monaghan, in the north of Ireland, as preacher to a congregation of Dissenters in that place, where he married, and had

two sons; the elder of whom was bred to the Church, and preached many years to the English congregation at the Hague, being equally remarkable for his learning and the goodness of his heart. The younger son was the unfortunate subject of this narrative.

The father dying when he was



about eighteen, and his effects falling into his hands, the whole produce was wasted in extravagance before he was twenty years of age. In this dilemma he applied for relief to his mother's relations, with a view to fit him out for the naval service; but, as they refused to assist him, he entered into the employ of a gentleman named Howard, with whom he came to London.

It was not long after his arrival in the metropolis before he abandoned his service, and, going to Ireland, he again solicited the assistance of his mother's relations, who were either unwilling or unable to afford him relief.

Hereupon he relinquished all thoughts of applying to them for support: but this was for some time liberally afforded him by his brother at the Hague, till his expenses began to be too considerable for a continued supply from that quarter; for his brother's whole income would not have been sufficient to maintain him as a gentleman.

Hereupon Maclane found it necessary to procure some employment; and, making interest with a military gentleman who had known his father, he recommended him to a colonel who had a country-seat near Cork. This gentleman engaged him as a hutler; and he continued a considerable time in his service, till, secreting some effects, he was dismissed with disgrace, and rendered unable to procure another place in that part of the kingdom.

Being reduced to circumstances of distress, he conceived an idea of entering into the Irish brigades in the service of France, and communicated his intention to a gentleman, who advised him to decline all thoughts of such a procedure, as he could have no prospect of rising in his profession unless he

changed his religion; a circumstance that he would not consent to, for he still retained some sense of the pious education he had received.

Notwithstanding the colonel above mentioned had dismissed him his service, yet, fearing that his desperate circumstances might induce him to further acts of dishonesty, he intrusted him with the care of his baggage to London; and Maclane, wishing to enter as a private man in Lord Albemarle's troop of horse-guards, solicited the colonel to advance the necessary sum to procure his admission.

The colonel seemed willing to favour his scheme; but, thinking it dangerous to trust the money in his hands, he committed it to the care of an officer belonging to the troop, which was then in Flanders. Every thing was prepared, and his credentials were ready for his joining the troop, when he suddenly declined all thoughts of entering into the army.

Maclane's ruling passion was dress, as an introduction to the company of women; and, having received about fifty pounds from some females of more good nature than sense, under pretence of fitting himself out for a West-India voyage, he expended the greater part of it in elegant clothes, and commenced a professed fortune-hunter.

At length he married the daughter of Mr. Maclegno, a horse-dealer, with whom he received five hundred pounds, and therewith he commenced the business of a grocer, in Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, supporting his family with some degree of credit till the expiration of three years, when his wife died, bequeathing two infant daughters to the care of her parents, who kindly undertook to



provide for them; and both these children were living at the time of their father's ignominious death.

Hitherto Maclane's character among his neighbours was unimpeached; but, soon after the death of his wife, he sold off his stock in trade and furniture, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman, in the hope of engaging the attention of some lady of fortune, to which he thought himself entitled by the gracefulness of his person and the elegance of his appearance.

At the end of about six months he had expended all his money, and became greatly dejected in mind, from reflecting on that change of fortune that would probably reduce him to his former state of servitude. While in this state of dejection an Irish apothecary, named Plunkett,\* visited him, and inquired into the cause of his despondency. Maclane acknowledged the exhausted state of his finances; candidly confessed that he had no money left, nor knew any way of raising a shilling but by the disposal of his wearing apparel; in answer to which Plunkett addressed him as follows:

'I thought that Maclane had spirit and resolution, with some knowledge of the world. A brave man cannot want; he has a right to live, and not want the conveniences of life, while the dull, plodding, busy knaves, carry cash in their pockets. We must draw upon them to supply our wants: there needs only impudence, and getting the better of a few idle scruples; there is scarce any courage necessary. All whom we have to deal with are mere poltroons.'

These arguments, equally ridiculous and depraved, co-operated

so forcibly with the poverty of Maclane, that he entered into conversation with Plunkett on the subject of going on the highway; and at length they entered into a solemn agreement to abide by each other in all adventures, and to share the profit of their depredations to the last shilling: nor does it appear that either of them defrauded the other.

Maclane, though he had consented to commit depredations on the public, yet was so impressed by that remorse of conscience which will never quit a mind not wholly abandoned, even when engaged in unlawful actions, that, in his first and most subsequent attempts, he discovered evident signs of want of that false bravery which villains would call courage.

The first robbery these men committed in conjunction was on Hounslow Heath, where they stopped a grazier on his return from Smithfield, and took from him about sixty pounds.

This money being soon spent in extravagance, they were induced to take a ride on the St. Albans road, and, seeing a stage-coach coming forward, they agreed to ride up on the opposite sides of the carriage. Maclane's fears induced him to hesitate; and when at length Plunkett ordered the driver to stop, it was with the utmost trepidation that the other demanded the money of the passengers.

On their return to London at night Plunkett censured him as a coward, and told him that he was unfit for his business. This had such an effect on him, that he soon afterwards went out alone, and unknown to Plunkett; and, having robbed a gentleman of a large sum,

\* This Plunkett was a daring robber, and we greatly fear that we shall not find him brought to the punishment so often due to his depredations. He certainly, among other base deeds, completed the ruin of Maclane.

returned and shared it with his companion.

A short time only had elapsed, after this expedition, when he stopped and robbed the Honourable Horace Walpole, and his pistol accidentally went off during the attack. For some time did he continue this irregular mode of life, during which he paid two guineas a week for his lodgings, and lived in a style of elegance, which he accounted for by asserting that he had an estate in Ireland which produced seven hundred pounds a year.

During this time his children were in the care of his mother-in-law, whom he seldom visited; and, when he did, would not sit down, nor stay long enough for her to give him such advice as might have proved useful to him.

On a particular occasion he narrowly escaped the hands of justice, which terrified him so much, that he went to Holland on a visit to his brother, who received him with every mark of fraternal affection; and, though unsuspecting of the mode in which he lived, yet having but too much reason to fear that he was of a dissipated turn of mind, gave him the best advice for the regulation of his future conduct.

Having remained in Holland till he presumed his transactions in this country were in some measure forgotten, he returned to England, renewed his depredations on the public, and lived in a style of the utmost elegance. He frequented all the public places, was well known at the gaming-houses, and was not unfrequent in his visits to ladies of easy virtue.

The speciousness of his behaviour, the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance, combined to make him a welcome visitor, even at the houses of women of character; and he had so far

ingratiated himself into the affections of a young lady, that her ruin would probably have been the consequence of their connexion, but that a gentleman, casually hearing of the affair, and knowing Maclane to be a sharper, interposed his timely advice, and saved her from destruction.

Hereupon the visits of the highwayman were forbidden; a circumstance that chagrined him so much that he sent a challenge to the gentleman, which was treated with that degree of contempt which all challenges ought to be. Our hero, still the more vexed by this circumstance, went to several coffee-houses, and, saying that this gentleman had refused to meet him, abused him in the most opprobrious terms; but those who knew the story said it was no proof of cowardice for a man of honour to refuse to meet a person of abandoned character.

Encouraged by his repeated successes, Maclane was thrown off his guard, his usual caution forsook him, and he became every day more free to commit robbery, and less apprehensive of detection; for he imagined that Plunkett's turning evidence could alone affect him, and he had no doubt of the fidelity of his accomplice.

On the 26th of June, 1750, Plunkett and Maclane, riding out together, met the Earl of Eglington in a postchaise, beyond Hounslow, when Maclane, advancing to the postboy, commanded him to stop, but placed himself in a direct line before the driver, lest his lordship should shoot him with a blunderbuss, with which he always travelled; for he was certain that the peer would not fire so as to endanger the life of the postboy. In the interim Plunkett forced a pistol through the glass at the back of the chaise, and threatened instant de-

struction unless his lordship threw away the blunderbuss.

The danger of his situation rendered compliance necessary, and his lordship was robbed of his money and a surtout coat. After the carriage drove forward Mac-lane took up the coat and blunderbuss, both of which were found in his lodgings when he was apprehended; but when he was afterwards tried for the offence which cost him his life Lord Eglinton did not appear against him.

On the day of the robbery above mentioned Mac-lane and Plunkett stopped the Salisbury stage, and took two portmanteaus, which, with the booty they had already obtained, was conveyed to Mac-lane's lodgings in Pall Mall, where the plunder was shared.

Immediate notice of this robbery was given in the newspapers, and the articles stolen were described; yet Mac-lane was so much off his guard, that he stripped the lace from a waistcoat, the property of one of the gentlemen who had been robbed, and happened to carry it for sale to the laceman of whom it had been purchased.

He also went to a salesman in Monmouth Street, named Loader, who attended him to his lodgings, but had no sooner seen what clothes he had to sell, than he knew them to be those which had been advertised; and, pretending that he had not money enough to purchase them, said he would go home for more; instead of which he procured a constable, apprehended Mac-lane, and took him before a magistrate.

Many persons of rank, of both sexes, attended his examination; several of whom were so affected with his situation that they contributed liberally towards his present support.

Being committed to the Gate-

house, he requested a second examination before the magistrate; when he confessed all that was alleged against him, and his confession was taken in writing.

On this he was committed to the prison above mentioned; and, during his confinement, a gentleman wrote to his brother at the Hague a narrative of his unhappy case, which produced the following answer, at once exhibiting an equal proof of fraternal affection and regard to the laws of equity:

*'Utrecht, Aug. 16, N. S. 1750.*

SIR,—I received your melancholy letter, but the dismal news it contained had reached me before it arrived, as I have been happily absent from the Hague some time.

'I never thought that any belonging to me would have loaded me with such heartbreaking affliction as the infamous crimes of him whom I will call brother no more have brought upon me. How often, and how solemnly, have I admonished him of the miserable consequences of an idle life; and, alas! to no purpose. However that be, I have made all the interest possible for his life, filled with shame and confusion that I have been obliged to make demands so contrary to justice, and hardly knowing with what face to do it in the character I bear as a minister of truth and righteousness.

'It is the interest of some friends I have made here that alone can save his life: they have lost no time in applying, and I hope their endeavours will be successful; but I still hope more, that if Providence should so order events as that he escapes the utmost rigour of the law, and has that life prolonged which he deserves not to enjoy any longer; I hope, or rather wish, that in such a case he may have a proper sense and feeling of his



enormous crimes, which lay an ample foundation for drawing out the wretched remainder of his days in sorrow and repentance. With respect to me, it would give me consolation if I could hope that this would be the issue of his trial; it would comfort me on his account, as he is a man, because I will never acknowledge him in any nearer relation, and because, except such good offices as former ties and present humanity demand from me in his behalf, I am determined never to have any farther correspondence with him during this mortal life.

‘I have given orders to look towards his subsistence, and what is necessary for it.

‘I am obliged to you, sir, for your attention, in communicating to me this dismal news, and shall willingly embrace any opportunity of showing myself, Sir,

‘Your most obedient, &c.’

‘P. S. If you see this my unhappy brother, let him know my compassion for his misery, as well as my indignation against his crimes; and also that I shall omit nothing in my power to have his sufferings mitigated. He has, I fear, broken my heart, and will make me draw on the rest of my days in sorrow.’

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey Maclane was indicted, and pleaded ‘Not guilty;’ and read the following able defence:

‘My Lord,

‘Your lordship will not construe it vanity in me, at this time, to say that I am the son of a divine of the kingdom of Ireland, well known for his zeal and affection to the present royal family and happy government, who bestowed an education upon me becoming his character, of which I have in my hand a certificate from a lord, four members of parliament, and several jus-

tices for the county where I was born and received my education.

‘About the beginning of the late French war, my lord, I came to London, with a design to enter into the military service of my king and country: but unexpected disappointments obliged me to change my resolution; and, having married the daughter of a reputable tradesman, to her fortune I added what little I had of my own, and entered into trade in the grocery way, and continued therein till my wife died. I very quickly after her death found a decay in trade, arising from an unavoidable trust reposed in servants; and, fearing the consequence, I sold off my stock, and in the first place honestly discharged my debts, and purposed to apply the residue of my fortune in the purchase of some military employment, agreeably to my first design.

‘During my application to trade, my lord, I unhappily became acquainted with one Plunkett, an apothecary, who, by his account of himself, induced me to believe he had travelled abroad, and was possessed of clothes and other things suitable thereto, and prevailed on me to employ him in attending on my family, and to lend him money to the amount of one hundred pounds and upwards.

‘When I left off trade I pressed Plunkett for payment, and after receiving, by degrees, several sums, he proposed, on my earnestly insisting that I must call in all debts owing to me, to pay me part in goods and part in money.

‘These very clothes with which I am charged, my lord, he brought to me to make sale of, towards payment of my debt; and accordingly, my lord, I did sell them, very unfortunately, as it now appears, little thinking they were come by in the manner Mr. Higden



hath been pleased to express, whose word and honour are too well known to doubt the truth.

‘My lord, as the contracting this debt between Plunkett and myself was a matter of a private nature, so was the payment of it; and, therefore, it is impossible for me to have the testimony of one single witness to these facts, which (as it is an unavoidable misfortune) I hope, and doubt not, my lord, that your lordship and the gentlemen of the jury will duly weigh.

‘Is it probable, nay, is it possible, that, if I had come by those clothes by dishonest means, I should be so imprudent as to bring a man to my lodgings at noon-day to buy them, and give him my name and place of residence, and even write that name and place of residence myself in the salesman’s book? It seems to me, and I think must to every man, a madness that no one with the least share of sense could be capable of.

‘My lord, in the course of Mr. Higden’s evidence, he hath declared that he could not be positive either to my face or person, the defect of which, I humbly presume, leaves a doubt of the certainty of my being one of the two persons.

‘My lord, it is very true, when I was first apprehended, the surprise confounded me, and gave me a most extraordinary shock; it caused a delirium and confusion in my brain, which rendered me incapable of being myself, or knowing what I said or did: I talked of robberies as another man would do in talking of stories; but, my lord, after my friends had visited me in the Gate-house, and had given me some new spirits, and when I came to be re-examined before Justice Iediard, and was asked if I could make any discovery of the robbery, I then alleged I had recovered my

surprise, that what I had talked of before concerning robberies was false and wrong, and was entirely owing to a confused head and brain.

‘This, my lord, being my unhappy state—but, unhappy as it is, as your lordship is my judge and presumptive counsel, I submit it—whether there is any other evidence against me than circumstantial.

‘First, the selling of the lace and clothes, which I agree I did; for which I account.

‘Secondly, the verbal confession of a confused brain; for which I account.

‘All this evidence, I humbly apprehend, is but circumstantial evidence.

‘It might be said, my lord, that I ought to show where I was at this time.

‘To which, my lord, I answer, that I never heard the time, nor the day of the month, that Mr. Higden was robbed; and, my lord, it is impossible for me, at this juncture, to recollect where I was, and much more to bring any testimony of it.

‘My lord, in cases where the prisoner lies under these impossibilities of proof, it is hard, nay, it is very hard, if presumption may not have some weight on the side of the prisoner. I humbly hope that that doctrine will not escape your lordship’s memory in charging the jury.

‘My lord, I have lived in credit, and have had dealings with mankind; and therefore humbly beg leave, my lord, to call about a score to my character, or more, if your lordship pleases; and then, my lord, if, in your lordship’s opinion, the evidence against me should be by law only circumstantial, and the character given of me by my witnesses should be so far satisfactory as to have equal weight,

I shall most willingly and readily submit to the jury's verdict.'

Nine gentlemen, being called, gave him a very good character.

The jury brought him in guilty without going out of Court. When brought up to receive sentence of death he made an essay to address the Court; but, his powers failing, he only exclaimed, 'My lord, I cannot speak!' What he intended to offer was next day published, importing that he hoped some circumstances might entitle him to so much mercy as might save him from dying so disgracefully to his family, and enable him to pass his days in penitence and obscurity.

Maclane, having been educated as a Dissenter, was attended, at his own request, by Dr. Allen, a reverend divine of the Presbyterian persuasion.

The doctor, at his first visit, found this unhappy person under inexpressible agonies of mind, arising from a deep sense not only of his misery, but of his guilt. He declared that, although most of those with whom he had lately conversed ridiculed all religion, yet the truths of Christianity had been so deeply rooted in his mind by a pious education, that he never entertained the least doubt about them, even while he was engaged in courses of the most flagitious wickedness, by which it became his interest to disbelieve them.

He declared also that 'neither death, nor the violence and infamy with which, in his case, it would be attended, gave him the least uneasiness; but expressed the most dreadful apprehension of going into the presence of the Almighty, whose laws he had known only to violate, and the motions of whose spirit he had felt only to suppress.'

The doctor replied that, though these apprehensions were just, yet,

if he could be sincerely penitent, he might, through the merits and intercession of the blessed Jesus, be forgiven; but pressed him earnestly not to deceive himself, adding, 'It is impossible for me to know your heart; and your present circumstances make it very difficult for you yourself to know it.' He then apprized him of the great difficulty of obtaining a rational hope that a repentance is genuine which had no beginning till guilt was overtaken by punishment, and the terrors of death were displayed before him. Maclane felt the force of this argument, but said that, if the utmost abhorrence of himself for the enormities of his life, if the deepest sense of his ingratitude to God, and the violation of his conscience, which had always reproached him—if indignation at himself for the injuries he had done to society, and the distresses he had brought upon his relations, were marks of sincere penitence, he hoped that indeed he was a penitent sinner: and that, although he had but little time to live, and therefore was unable to evince the sincerity of his repentance by many fruits of it, yet, if he knew any thing of his own heart, he had no desire of life but as an opportunity of fulfilling the good resolutions which the near view of death had produced. 'What is life,' said he, 'with the loss of my good name? What indeed is life with all its advantages? I profess to you, sir, that I have had more pleasure in one hour's conversation with you than in all the gay vanities I have ever engaged in.'

In one of these conversations the doctor took occasion to tell him that the defence which he had made at his trial was not a token of that sincerity of heart which he had so solemnly professed. To this he

answered, that what he had done on that occasion was by the advice of an attorney; that he thought it a just defence in law; and that, if it had preserved his life, it would have prevented the disgrace which his death would bring upon his family, and would have afforded him an opportunity of making some reparation to society by becoming an useful member of it, and of proving the sincerity of his repentance by his reformation.

Upon an inquiry if his father had really been a minister in Ireland, he burst into a sudden flood of tears, and confirmed it, expressing, in the most affecting manner, his regret for having acted in violation of the principles which had been early implanted in his mind by a tender and pious parent; a circumstance which, he said, greatly aggravated his guilt.

But he often lamented that he had not been brought up to some employment which would have made industry necessary, instead of to writing and accounts, which, as a genteeler business, was chosen for him: and once he added, 'O sir, I have often, in my necessities, before I had broken in upon my innocence, thought that, had I had a mechanic trade in my hands, that would have employed my whole time, I should have been a happy man.'

Dr. Allen told him it had been reported that he lived upon very ill terms with his wife, and that his cruelty hastened her death. He absolutely denied it, and indeed his wife's mother took leave of him with great tenderness, and uncommon ardour of affection. When he was asked if he had any hope of a respite, he answered 'Very little.' And, being told that the great number of robberies committed by persons of genteel appearance rendered

it very improbable that he should be spared, he said he acquiesced, and desired his example might be pressed as a warning to young persons; adding, with great earnestness, 'Glad should I be if, as my life has been vile, my death might be useful.'

He acknowledged that, his friends having once raised a little contribution to enable him to ship himself for Jamaica, he carried it to the gaming-table at the masquerade; where at first he had some success, and hoped to win enough to buy a little military post: but at length he lost his all; and, having alienated his friends by his abuse of their bounty, and disposed of whatever he could either pawn or sell, he, by the persuasion of Plunkett, took to the highway. With him, who was his only accomplice, he committed many robberies, but had always shuddered at the thought of murder, and was thankful to God that he had not incurred the guilt of shedding innocent blood.

After the death-warrant came down no additional dejection or sadness appeared in his countenance, but rather a more steady and composed resignation. He asked Dr. Allen whether he should receive the sacrament, on the morning of the execution, with the other criminals? To which he readily consented; but said that he hoped it was not necessary to warn him against considering it as a charm, or passport, which, he feared, was too frequently done by those who are grossly ignorant, or invincibly stupid.

A youth who had been condemned, but was afterwards ordered to be transported for life, chose to continue in the cell with MacLane; and, as they had opportunity, they went among the other



prisoners who were ordered for execution, to instruct them, pray with them, and assist them in their preparation for death. But Mac-lane was greatly shocked at the insensibility and profaneness of some, and pitied the souls which were going into eternity in so hopeless a state.

These incidents the doctor improved, as evidences of his sincerity. The day before his execution, in the presence of several gentlemen from Holland, he gave him a letter from his brother, at the sight of which he fell into an agony of grief, and said, 'Oh! my dear brother! I have broke his heart!' After some pause, as if in doubt whether he should read it or not, he said, 'I have been long educated to sorrow, and, cutting as this letter will be to my heart, I must read it.' Beginning with the first words, 'Unhappy brother!' he cried out in great agony of mind, 'Unhappy, indeed!' and then, endeavoring to compose himself, read the letter with emotions suitable to the solemnity of its contents, and desired to read it a second time. It was then proposed to the company present to unite in a solemn prayer to God for him: they consented, and the strangers wept abundantly on the occasion. In the evening of the same day he took his last farewell of Mr. H. a friend of his brother, and of Dr. Allen: he said 'This is the bitterness of death:' he eagerly embraced them both, dropped suddenly down on his knees, and prayed to God to bless them for ever.

He spent all that night, with the youth who has been mentioned before, in his devotions. At going into the cart he was heard to say, 'O! my God, I have forsaken thee! but I will trust in thee!' and all the accounts of his behaviour in

his passage to the place of execution, and at it, concur in testifying that he went through the whole awful scene with manly firmness, joined with all the appearance of true devotion: and 'I hope,' says the doctor, 'that he has found that mercy with God which he so earnestly sought.'

To this mournful account of a criminal struggling with terror and remorse, in the expectation of a sudden, a violent, and ignominious death, it may not be improper to add a view of the prosperous robber, while he is enjoying that which he gains with such a dreadful hazard, and mixes unsuspected in the most gay and elevated scenes of life. A comparison will thus be more easily made, and it can be determined with a greater certainty what is the balance of the account, and on which side it will fall: we have therefore collected the following particulars from many parts of Dr. Allen's account, and thrown them together in this place.

When he was in lodgings at Chelsea, and probably lived in eternal splendour, the agitation and disturbance of his mind were so great, that he was often observed to roll about the floor of his room in great agony.

When he was among ladies and gentlemen of rank and fortune, and even while he was engaged in the most splendid and captivating entertainments, the anguish of his mind was too strong to be suppressed; and his company would then ask what it was that produced the melancholy and discontent which they perceived in his countenance.

In a good cause no man had greater courage than Mac-lane; but in every scheme of villainy he was a coward. The moment in which he entered on the highway he totally lost his peace of mind, and be-



came the slave of dreadful apprehensions and perpetual terror.

In these circumstances, could the gaiety of his appearance or the favour of the great, the company of women or the splendour of a masquerade, put him in possession of any thing equivalent to one hour of peace and safety? Let those answer whose love of pleasure is most predominant; their decision will be in favour of virtue: neither let the idle nor the voluptuous flatter themselves that they shall be able to procure the same gratifications without the same alloy.

The state of the mind in contemplation of crime is very different from that which follows the commission; the sufferings of guilt cannot be realized by imagination, nor eluded in the experiment. Let those, therefore, who are yet innocent, make no approaches to the precipice from which this man fell; and let those whose crimes have not yet been detected hasten from the brink.

Arrived at Tyburn, he looked

sadly up at the gallows, and, with a heartfelt sigh, exclaimed 'O Jesus!'

'In his parch'd eyes the deep-sunk tears express

His endless misery, his dire distress.'

He took no notice of the populace, all his attention being fixed upon his devotions; and spoke to no one except the constable that first apprehended him, who desired to shake hands with him, and entreated his forgiveness; to which the dying man, giving his hand, replied, 'I forgive you, and may God bless you and your friends; may he forgive my enemies, and receive my soul.'

He suffered on the 3d of October, 1750, along with William Smith, the malefactor before named.

It is somewhat worthy of remark and regret that two young men, tenderly brought up, and well educated, and (still more melancholy) both the sons of pious clergymen, should, side by side, have thus rendered up their forfeited lives to the injured laws of their country.

## JOHN CARR,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE history of this man, in its commencement, reminds us of the adage 'Diamond cut diamond,'—an Irish fortune-hunter *versus* an English swindling courtesan. The lady, however, it seems, outwitted the gentleman.

John Carr was a native of the north of Ireland. His parents were respectable, and his education was genteel. At sixteen years of age he was sent to reside with a kinsman in Dublin. When he grew to years of maturity his kinsman put him into business as a wine and brandy merchant, and he seemed to be in the road to success; but, his friend dying, he attached himself to

bad company, neglected his business, lost his customers, and was soon greatly reduced in his circumstances.

A man of fortune, who was one of his abandoned associates, invited Carr to pass part of the summer at his seat in the country; and, setting out together, they stopped at Kilkenny, where some passengers quitted a coach, among whom was a young lady, whose elegant person and appearance impressed Carr with an idea that she was of rank, and inspired him with the first sentiments of love that he ever felt.

Throwing himself from his horse, he handed her into the inn; and a

proposal being made that the company should sup together, it was agreed to on all hands; and, while the supper was preparing, Carr applied himself to the coachman to learn the history of the young lady; but all the information he could obtain was, that he had taken her up at Dublin, and that she was going to the Spa at Mallow.

Carr, being anxious to become better acquainted with the lady, prevailed on the company to repose themselves the next day at Kilkenny, and take a view of the Duke of Ormond's seat, and the curiosities of the town. This proposal being acceded to, the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and good humour; and the fair stranger even then conceived an idea of making a conquest of Mr. Carr, from whose appearance she judged that he was a man of distinction.

In the morning she dressed herself to great advantage, not forgetting the ornament of jewels, which she wore in abundance; so that when she entered the room Carr was astonished at her appearance. She found the influence she had over him, and resolved to afford him an early opportunity of speaking his sentiments; and, while the company were walking in the gallery of the Duke of Ormond's palace, this opportunity offered.

The lady affected displeasure at so explicit a declaration; but, soon assuming a more affable deportment, she told him she was an Englishwoman of rank; that his person was not disagreeable to her; and that, if he was a man of fortune, and the consent of her relations could be obtained, she should not be averse to listening to his addresses. She further said that she was going to spend part of the summer at Mallow, where his company

would be agreeable; and he followed her to that place, contrary to the advice of his friend, who had formed a very unfavorable opinion of the lady's character.

Here he dissipated so much cash in company with this woman, that he was compelled to borrow of his friend, who remonstrated on the impropriety of the connexion; but Carr still kept her company, and, at the end of the season, returned with her to Dublin.

Here the lovers agreed to sail for England, and Carr sold some small estates, and, borrowing all the money he possibly could, delivered the whole to his mistress.

Preparations were now made for the voyage, and Carr employed himself in procuring a passage to England; but in his absence the lady shipped all the effects on board a vessel bound for Amsterdam; and, having dressed herself in man's apparel, she embarked and sailed, leaving Carr to regret his ill-judged credulity.

On his return home, discovering how he had been robbed, he was at first half-distracted with his loss; but, on cooler reflection, he thought it would be in vain to pursue the thief; on which he sold the few trifles that remained of his property, which producing about a hundred pounds, he came to London, and soon spent the whole in debauchery and extravagance.

Thus reduced, he enlisted as a foot-soldier, and served some years before he was discharged; after which he entered as a marine at Plymouth, whence he came to London, and opened a shop in Hog Lane, St. Giles's. He now married a girl who he thought had money; but, soon discovering her poverty, he abandoned her, and removed to Short's Gardens, where he entered into partnership with a cork-cutter.

Having ingratiated himself into the esteem of the customers, he opened shop on his own account, and soon got all the business from his late partner. This, however, proved of no service to him, for, getting into bad company, he frequented the gaming-tables, and became the dupe of sharpers.

These villains, determined to possess themselves of all his money, offered to procure him a wife of fortune, though they knew he had a wife living, and actually contrived to introduce him to a young lady of property. A marriage would probably have taken place, but that one of them, struck with remorse of conscience, developed the affair to her father, and frustrated the whole scheme; and soon afterwards Carr's companions quitted him, having reduced him to the last shilling.

Having been intrusted by a gentleman with a draft on the bank for sixty pounds, he received the money, spent it all in the lowest scenes of debauchery, and again entered as a marine.

There being something in his deportment superior to the vulgar, he was advanced to the rank of sergeant, in which he behaved so well, that his officers treated him with singular regard.

The vessel in which he sailed taking a merchant ship richly laden, and soon afterwards several smaller vessels, the prize-money amounted to a considerable sum; which gave Carr an idea that very great advantages might be obtained by privateering. Hereupon he procured a discharge; and, entering on board a privateer, was made master-at-arms.

In a few days the privateer took two French ships, one of which they carried to Bristol, and the other into the harbour of Poole. Having refitted their ship, they

sailed again; and, in two days, took a French privateer, and gave chase to three others, which they found to have been English vessels belonging to Falmouth, which had been captured by a French privateer. These they retook, and carried them into Falmouth; in their passage to which place they made prize of a valuable French ship, the amount of which contributed to enrich the crew.

On their next trip they saw a ship in full chase of them, on which they prepared for a vigorous defence; and, indeed, it was necessary, for the vessels fought above forty minutes yard-arm and yard-arm. Many hands were lost by the French, who at length attempted to sheer off, but were taken, after a chase of some leagues.

The commander of the English privateer, being desperately wounded in the engagement, died in a few days; on which Carr courted his widow, and a marriage would have taken place, but that she was seized with a violent fever, which deprived her of life; but not before she had bequeathed him all she was possessed of.

Having disposed of her effects, he repaired to London, where he commenced smuggler: but his ill-gotten goods being seized on by the officers of the revenue, he took to the still more dangerous practice of forging seamen's wills, and gained money thus for some time; but, being apprehended, he was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, convicted, and was sentenced to die.

He was of the Romish persuasion, and died with decent resignation to his fate.

Carr was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1750.

The growth and fatal effects of an intercourse with a bad woman are thus finely described by Solomon,



and will supersede the necessity of our saying any thing farther on this subject:—

‘For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, and beheld among the simple ones; I discerned among the youths a young man void of understanding, passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, in the twilight, in the black and dark night; and behold there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house; now she is without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace-offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. There-

fore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning; let us solace ourselves with love. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield; with the flattery of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; till a dart strike through his liver as a bird hasteneth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. Hearken unto me now, therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth: Let not thine heart incline to her ways; go not astray in her paths!’

## WILLIAM BAKER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGING AN EAST-INDIA WARRANT.

THIS unfortunate man was born in Cannon Street, where his father kept a baker's shop, and lived in good reputation. The youth was educated at Merchant Tailors' School, and, at the usual age, bound apprentice to a grocer in a considerable way of business; and he proved so faithful and diligent a servant, that, soon after the time of his apprenticeship had expired, his master admitted him an equal partner in his trade.

Having carried on the grocery trade for about seven years, he declined that business, and connected himself in partnership with Mr. Carter, a sugar-baker; and by this new undertaking he flattered himself in the expectation of speedily acquiring a fortune.

About the period of his commencing sugar-baker he married one of his cousins, who was the daughter of a clergyman in North-

amptonshire; and with her he received a handsome fortune.

For several years he fulfilled all his engagements with the greatest punctuality, and was supposed to be possessed of considerable property.

He attended the sales of the East-India Company's goods, and frequently purchased very large quantities of teas, and had extensive dealings in other articles. He often, however, sustained considerable loss by the sale of his goods; and his circumstances at length became so embarrassed, that he was under apprehension that a commission of bankruptcy would issue against him.

Mr. Baker still flattered himself that, if he could support his credit for a short time, matters would take a more favorable turn, and his circumstances be retrieved. His anxiety to avoid a bankruptcy induced him to forge an East-India



warrant for goods to the amount of nine hundred and twenty-two pounds, which warrant he passed into the hands of Mr. Holland, who sent it to the India House, where the forgery was detected, and Baker was in consequence apprehended.

Being put on his trial at the Old Bailey, several gentlemen of reputation appeared in his behalf, and spoke to his character in the most favorable terms: but both the forgery and the uttering the counterfeit warrant having been proved

against him by indisputable testimony and strongly corroborating circumstances, he of course was condemned to suffer death.

Mr. Baker's behaviour, while under sentence of death, was perfectly consistent with his unfortunate situation. Being conveyed to Tyburn, Dec. 31, 1750, in a mourning coach, he appeared to be in a composed state of mind, and entirely resigned to his fate; and, after employing some time in fervent prayer, and singing psalms, he suffered the dreadful sentence of the law.



*Parsons imploring his Father's forgiveness.*

### WILLIAM PARSONS, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR RETURNING FROM TRANSPORTATION.

THE unhappy subject of this narrative was the eldest son of Sir William Parsons, Bart. of the county of Nottingham, and was born in London in the year 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned divine at Pepper-harrow, in

Surrey, where he received the first rudiments of education. In a little more than three years he was removed to Eton College, where it was intended that he should qualify himself for one of the universities.

While he was a scholar at Eton

he was detected in stealing a volume of Pope's Homer in the shop of a bookseller named Pote. Being charged with the fact, he confessed that he had stolen many other books at different times. The case being represented to the master, Parsons underwent a very severe discipline.

Though he remained at Eton nine years, his progress in learning was very inconsiderable. The youth was, indeed, of so unpromising a disposition, that Sir William determined to send him to sea, as the most probable means to prevent his destruction; and soon procured him to be appointed midshipman on board a man of war then lying at Spithead, under sailing orders for Jamaica, there to be stationed for three years.

Some accident detaining the ship beyond the time when it was expected she would sail, Parsons applied for leave of absence, and went on shore; but, having no intention to return, he immediately directed his course towards a small town about ten miles from Portsmouth, called Bishop's Waltham, where he soon ingratiated himself into the favour of the principal inhabitants.

His figure being pleasing, and his manner of address easy and polite, he found but little difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies.

He became greatly enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician of considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise she would yield him her hand in marriage.

News of the intended alliance coming to the knowledge of his father, Sir William, and his uncle, the latter hastened to Waltham, to prevent an union which he apprehended would inevitably produce the ruin of the contracting parties.

With much difficulty the uncle prevailed upon Parsons to return to

the ship, which in a few days afterwards proceeded on her voyage.

The ship had not been long arrived at the place of destination when Parsons resolved to desert, and return to England, and soon found an opportunity of slipping himself on board the Sheerness man of war, then preparing to sail on her return home.

Immediately after his arrival in England he set out for Waltham, in order to visit the object of his desires; but his uncle, being apprized of his motions, repaired to the same place, and represented his character in so unfavorable, but at the same time in so just a light, as prevented the renewal of his addresses to the physician's daughter.

He went home with his uncle, who observed his conduct with a most scrupulous attention, and confined him as much as possible within doors. This generous relation at length exerted his interest to get the youth appointed midshipman on board his majesty's ship the Romney, which was ordered on the Newfoundland station.

Upon his return from Newfoundland, Parsons learnt, with infinite mortification, that the Duchess of Northumberland, to whom he was related, had revoked a will made in his favour, and bequeathed to his sister a very considerable legacy, which he had expected to enjoy. He was repulsed by his friends and acquaintance, who would not in the least countenance his visits at their houses; and his circumstances now became exceedingly distressed.

Thus situated, he applied to a gentleman named Bailey, with whom he had formerly lived on terms of intimacy, and whose humanity induced him to invite Parsons to reside in his house, and to furnish him with the means of supporting the character of a gentle-

man. Mr. Bailey was also indefatigable in his endeavours to effect a reconciliation between young Parsons and his father, in which he at length succeeded.

Sir William having prevailed upon his son to go abroad again, and procured him an appointment under the governor of James Fort, on the river Gambia, he embarked on board a vessel in the service of the Royal African Company.

Parsons had resided at James Fort about six months, when a disagreement took place between him and Governor Anfleure; in consequence of which the former signified a resolution of returning to England. Hereupon the governor informed him that he was commissioned to engage him as an indentured servant for five years. Parsons warmly expostulated with the governor, declaring that his behaviour was neither that of a man of probity or a gentleman, and requested permission to return. But, so far from complying, the governor issued orders to the sentinels to be particularly careful lest he should effect an escape.

Notwithstanding every precaution, Parsons found means to get on board a homeward-bound vessel, and, being followed by Mr. Anfleure, he was commanded to return; but, cocking a pistol, and presenting it to the governor, he declared he would fire upon any man who should presume to molest him. Hereupon the governor departed, and in a short time the ship sailed for England.

Soon after his arrival in his native country he received an invitation to visit an uncle who lived at Epsom, which he gladly accepted, and experienced a most cordial and friendly reception.

He resided with his uncle about three months, and was treated with

all imaginable kindness and respect. At length one of the female servants in the family swore herself to be pregnant by him, which so incensed the old gentleman, that he dismissed Parsons from his house.

Reduced to the most deplorable state of poverty, he directed his course towards the metropolis; and, three halfpence being his whole stock of money, he subsisted four days upon the bread purchased with that small sum, quenching his thirst at the pumps he casually met with in the streets. He lay four nights in a hay-loft in Chancery Lane, belonging to the Master of the Rolls, by permission of the coachman, who pitied his truly deplorable case.

At length he determined to apply for redress to an ancient gentleman with whom he had been acquainted in his more youthful days, when she was in the capacity of companion to the Duchess of Northumberland. Weak and emaciated through want of food, his appearance was rendered still more miserable by the uncleanness and disorder of his apparel; and, when he appeared before the old lady, she tenderly compassionated his unfortunate situation, and recommended him to a decent family in Cambridge Street, with whom he resided some time in a very comfortable manner, the old gentleman defraying the charge of his lodging and board; and a humane gentleman, to whom she had communicated his case, supplying him with money for common expenses.

Sir William came to town at the beginning of the winter, and received an unexpected visit from his son, who dropped upon his knees, and supplicated forgiveness with the utmost humility and respect. His mother-in-law was greatly enraged at his appearance, and upbraided



her husband with being foolishly indulgent to so graceless a youth, at the same time declaring that she would not live in the house where he was permitted to enter.

Sir William asked him what mode of life he meant to adopt; and his answer was, that he was unable to determine, but would cheerfully pursue such measures as so indulgent a parent should think proper to recommend. The old gentleman then advised him to enter as a private man in the horse-guards; which he approved of, saying he would immediately offer himself as a volunteer.

Upon mentioning his intention to the adjutant, he was informed that he must pay seventy guineas for his admission into the corps. This news proved exceedingly afflicting, as he had but little hope that his father would advance the necessary sum. Upon returning to his father's lodgings, he learnt that he had set out for the country, and left him a present of only five shillings.

Driven now nearly to a state of distraction, he formed the desperate resolution of putting an end to his life, and repaired to St. James's Park, intending to throw himself in Rosamond's Pond. While he stood on the brink of the water, waiting for an opportunity of carrying his impious design into effect, it occurred to him that a letter he had received, mentioning the death of an aunt, and that she had bequeathed a legacy to his brother, might be made use of to his own advantage; and he immediately declined the thoughts of destroying himself.

He produced the letter to several persons, assuring them that the writer had been misinformed respecting the legacy, which in reality was left to himself. Under the

pretext of being entitled to the above legacy, he obtained money and effects from different people to a considerable amount; and, among those who were deceived by the above stratagem, was a tailor in Devereux Court, in the Strand, who gave him credit for several genteel suits of clothes.

The money and other articles thus fraudulently obtained enabled him to engage in scenes of gaiety and dissipation; and he seemed to entertain no idea that his happiness would be but of short duration.

Accidentally meeting the brother of the young lady to whom he had made professions of love at Waltham, he intended to renew his acquaintance with him, and his addresses to his sister: but the young gentleman informed Parsons that his sister died suddenly a short time after his departure from Waltham.

Parsons endeavored as much as possible to cultivate the friendship of the above young gentleman, and represented his case in so plausible a manner as to obtain money from him at different times to a considerable amount.

Parsons's creditors now became exceedingly importunate; and he thought there was no probability of relieving himself from his difficulties but by connecting himself in marriage with a woman of fortune.

Being eminently qualified in those accomplishments which are known to have a great influence over the female world, Parsons soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of a young lady possessed of a handsome independence bequeathed her by her lately deceased father. He informed his creditors that he had a prospect of an advantageous marriage; and, as they were satisfied that the lady had a good fortune, they supplied him with every thing necessary for prosecuting the



amour, being persuaded that, if the expected union took place, they should have no difficulty in recovering their respective demands.

The marriage was solemnized on the 10th of February, 1740, in the twenty-third year of our malefactor's age. On occasion of this event the uncle who lived at Ep-som visited him in London, and gave him the strongest assurances that he would exert every possible endeavour to promote his interest and happiness, on condition that he would avoid such proceedings as would render him unworthy of friendship and protection. His relations in general were perfectly satisfied with the connexion he had made, and hoped that his irregular and volatile disposition would be corrected by the prudent conduct of his bride, who was justly esteemed a young lady of great sweetness of temper, virtue, and discretion.

A few weeks after his marriage his uncle interceded in his behalf with the Right Honourable Arthur Onslow; and, through the interest of that gentleman, he was appointed an ensign in the thirty-fourth regiment of foot.

He now discharged all his debts, which proved highly satisfactory to his relations; and this conduct was the means of his obtaining further credit in times of future distress.

He hired a very handsome house in Poland Street, where he resided two years, in which time he had two children, one of whom died very young. From Poland Street he removed to Panton Square; and the utmost harmony subsisted between him and his wife, who were much respected by their relations and acquaintances.

But it must be observed, that, though his conduct in other respects had been irreproachable from the time of his marriage, he was

guilty of unpardonable indiscretion as to the manner of his living; for he kept three saddle-horses, a chaise and pair, several unnecessary servants, and engaged in many other superfluous expenses that his income could not afford.

Unfortunately Parsons became acquainted with an infamous gambler, who seduced him to frequent gaming-houses, and to engage in play. He thus lost considerable sums, which were shared between the pretended friend of Parsons and his wicked accomplices.

Parsons was now promoted to a lieutenancy in a regiment that was ordered into Flanders, and he was accompanied to that country by the abandoned miscreant whom he considered as his most valuable friend. The money he lost by gaming, and the extravagant manner in which he lived, in a short time involved him in such difficulties, that he was under the necessity of selling his commission, in order to discharge his debts contracted in Flanders. The commission being sold, Parsons and his treacherous companion returned to England.

His arrival was no sooner known than his creditors were extremely urgent for the immediate discharge of their respective claims; which induced him to take a private lodging in Gough Square, where he passed under the denomination of Captain Brown. He pretended to be an unmarried man, and saw his wife only when appointments were made to meet at a public house. While he lodged in Gough Square he seduced his landlord's daughter, who became pregnant by him; and her imprudence in yielding to the persuasions of Parsons proved the means of involving her in extreme distress.

His creditors having discovered

the place of his retreat, he deemed it prudent to remove; and at this juncture an opportunity offered by which he hoped to retrieve his fortune; and he therefore embarked as captain of marines on board the Dursley privateer.

Soon after the arrival of the ship at Deal Parsons went on shore, provided with pistols, being determined not to submit to an arrest, which he supposed would be attempted. He had no sooner landed on the beach than he was approached by five or six men, one of whom attempted to seize him; but Parsons, stepping aside, discharged one of his pistols, and lodged a ball in the man's thigh. He then said he was well provided with weapons, and would fire upon them if they presumed to give him further molestation. Hereupon the officers retreated; and Parsons returned to the ship, which sailed from Deal the following morning.

They had been in the Channel about a week, when they made a prize of a French privateer, which they carried into the port of Cork. Parsons, being now afflicted with a disorder that prevailed among the French prisoners, was sent on shore for the recovery of his health. During his illness the vessel sailed on another cruise; and he was no sooner in a condition to permit him to leave his apartment, than he became anxious to partake of the fashionable amusements.

In order to recruit his finances, which were nearly exhausted, he drew bills of exchange on three merchants in London, on which he raised sixty pounds; and, before advice could be transmitted to Cork that he had no effects in the hands of the persons on whom he had drawn the bills, he embarked on board a vessel bound for England.

He landed at Plymouth, where

he resided some time under a military character, to support his claim to which he was provided with a counterfeit commission. He frequented all places of public resort, and particularly where gaming was permitted. His money being nearly expended, he obtained a hundred pounds from a merchant of Plymouth, by means of a false draft upon an alderman of London. Some time after the discovery of the fraud the injured party saw Parsons a transport prisoner on board a ship bound to Virginia, lying in Catwater Bay, where he assured him of entire forgiveness, and made him a present of a guinea.

From Plymouth Parsons repaired to London, and, his money being nearly spent, he committed the following fraud, in conjunction with a woman of the town:—Taking his accomplice to a tavern in the Strand (where he was known), he represented her as an heiress who had consented to a private marriage, and requested the landlord to send immediately for a clergyman. The parson being arrived, and about to begin the ceremony, Parsons pretended to recollect that he had forgotten to provide a ring, and ordered the waiter to tell a shopkeeper in the neighborhood to bring some plain gold rings. Upon this the clergyman begged to recommend a very worthy man, who kept a jeweller's shop in the neighborhood; and Parsons said it was a matter of indifference with whom he laid out his money, adding, that, as he wished to compliment his bride with some small present, the tradesman might also bring some diamond rings.

The rings being brought, and one of each chosen, Parsons produced a counterfeit draft, saying the jeweller might either give him change then, or call for payment

after the ceremony; on which the jeweller retired, saying he would attend again in the afternoon. In a little time the woman formed a pretence for leaving the room, and, upon her not returning soon, our hero affected great impatience, and, without taking his hat, quitted the apartment, saying he would inquire of the people of the house whether his bride had not been detained by some unforeseen accident.

After waiting a considerable time, the clergyman called the landlord; and, as neither Parsons nor the woman could be found, it was rightly concluded that their whole intention was to perpetrate a fraud. In the mean time our hero and his accomplice met at an appointed place, and divided their booty.

Soon after the above transaction Parsons intimated to a military officer that, on account of the many embarrassments he was under, he was determined to join the rebel army, as the only expedient by which he could avoid being lodged in prison. The gentleman represented the danger of engaging in such an adventure, and, lest his distress should precipitate him to any rash proceeding, generously supplied him with forty guineas, to answer present exigencies.

He soon after borrowed the above gentleman's horse, pretending that he had occasion to go a few miles into the country on a matter of business: but he immediately rode to Smithfield, where he sold the horse at a very inadequate price.

That he might escape the resentment of the gentleman whom he had treated in so unworthy a manner, he lodged an information against him, as being disaffected to the government: in consequence of which he was deprived of his commission, and suffered an imprisonment of six months. He exhibited informa-

tions of a similar nature against two other gentleman, who had been most liberal benefactors to him, in revenge for refusing any longer to supply him with the means of indulging his extravagant and profligate disposition.

In the year 1745 he counterfeited a draft upon one of the collectors of the excise, in the name of the Duke of Cumberland, for five hundred pounds. He carried the draft to the collector, who paid him fifty pounds in part, being all the cash that remained in his hands.

He went to a tailor, saying he meant to employ him on the recommendation of a gentleman of the army whom he had long supplied with clothes; adding, that a captain's commission was preparing for him at the War-office. The tailor furnished him with several suits of clothes, but, not being paid according to agreement, he entertained some suspicion as to the responsibility of his new customer; and therefore inquired at the War-office respecting Captain Brown, and learnt that a commission was making out for a gentleman of that name. Unable to get any part of the money due to him, and determined to be no longer trifled with, he instituted a suit at common law, but was nonsuited, having laid his action in the fictitious name of Brown, and it appearing that Parsons was the defendant's real name.

Parsons sent a porter from the Ram Inn, in Smithfield, with a counterfeit draft upon Sir Joseph Hankey and Company for five hundred pounds. Parsons followed the man, imagining that, if he came out of Sir Joseph's house alone, he would have received the money; but that, if he was accompanied by any person, it would be a strong proof of the forgery being

discovered. Upon observing Sir Joseph, therefore, get into a hackney-coach with the porter, he resolved not to return to the inn.

He next went to a widow named Bottomley, who lived near St. George's church, and, saying he had contracted to supply the regiment to which he belonged with hats, gave her an order to the amount of a hundred and sixty pounds. He had no sooner got possession of these hats than he sold them to a Jew for one half of the sum he had agreed to pay for them.

Being strongly apprehensive that he could not long avoid arrest from some of his numerous and highly exasperated creditors, by means of counterfeit letters he procured himself to be taken into custody as a person disaffected to the king and government; and he was supported, without expense, in the house of one of the king's messengers, for the space of eighteen months.

Being released from the messenger's house, he revolved in his mind a variety of schemes for eluding the importunity of his creditors, and at length embarked for Holland, where he remained a few months; and, when his money was nearly expended, returned to England. A few days after his arrival in London he went to a masquerade, where he engaged in play to the hazard of every shilling he possessed, and was so fortunate as to obtain a sufficient sum for his maintenance for several months.

His circumstances being again distressed, he wrote in pressing terms to his brother-in-law, who was an East India director, entreating that he would procure him a commission in the company's service, either by land or sea. The purport of the answer was, that a gentleman in the Temple was au-

thorized to give the supplicant a guinea, but that it would be fruitless for him to expect further favours.

Having written a counterfeit draft, he went to Ranelagh on a masquerade night, where he passed the draft to a gentleman who had won some small sums of him. The party who received the draft offered it for payment in a day or two afterwards, when it was proved to be a counterfeit, in consequence of which Parsons was apprehended, and committed to Wood Street Compter.

As no prosecutor appeared, Parsons was necessarily acquitted; but a detainer being lodged, charging him with an offence similar to the above, he was removed to Maidstone gaol, in order for trial at the Lent assizes at Rochester.

Mr. Carey, the keeper of the prison, treated Parsons with great humanity, allowing him to board in his family, and indulging him in every privilege that he could grant without a manifest breach of the duties of his office. But such was the ingratitude of the culprit, that he meditated a plan, which, had it taken effect, would have utterly ruined the man to whom he was indebted in such great obligations. His intention was privately to take the keys from Mr. Carey's apartment; and not only to escape himself, but even to give liberty to every prisoner in the gaol; and this scheme he communicated to a man accused of being a smuggler, who reported the matter to Mr. Carey, desiring him to listen at an appointed hour at night, when he would hear a conversation that would prove his intelligence to be authentic. Mr. Carey attended at the appointed time; and, being convinced of the ingratitude and perfidy of Parsons, he abridged him of the indulgences



he had before enjoyed, and caused him to be closely confined.

Being convicted at the assizes at Rochester, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years; and in the following September he was put on board the *Thames*, Captain Dobbins, bound for Maryland, in company with upwards of a hundred and seventy other convicts, fifty of whom died on the voyage. In November, 1749, Parsons was landed at Annapolis, in Maryland; and, having remained in a state of slavery about seven weeks, a gentleman of considerable property and influence, who was not wholly unacquainted with his family, compassionating his unfortunate situation, obtained his freedom, and received him at his house in a most kind and hospitable manner.

Parsons had not been in the gentleman's family many days before he rode off with a horse which was lent him by his benefactor, and proceeded towards Virginia; on the borders of which country he stopped a gentleman on horseback, and robbed him of five pistoles, a moi-dore, and ten dollars.

A few days after he stopped a lady and gentleman in a chaise, attended by a negro servant, and robbed them of eleven guineas and some silver: after which he directed his course to Potomack river, where, finding a ship nearly ready to sail for England, he embarked, and after a passage of twenty-five days landed at Whitehaven.

He now produced a forged letter, in the name of one of his relations, to a capital merchant of Whitehaven, signifying that he was entitled to the family estate, in consequence of his father's decease, and prevailed upon him to discount a false draft upon a banker in London for seventy five pounds.

Upon his arrival in the metropolis he hired a handsome lodging at the west end of the town; but he almost constantly resided in houses of ill fame, where the money he had so unjustifiably obtained was soon dissipated.

Having hired a horse, he rode to Hounslow Heath, where, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, he stopped a postchaise in which were two gentlemen, whom he robbed of five guineas, some silver, and a watch.

A short time afterwards he stopped a gentleman near Turnham Green, about twelve o'clock at night, and robbed him of thirty shillings and a gold ring. The gentleman requested that the ring might be returned, as he valued it, being his wife's wedding-ring. Parsons complied with this request, and voluntarily returned the gentleman five shillings, telling him at the same time that nothing but the most pressing necessity could have urged him to the robbery: after which the gentleman shook hands with the robber, assuring him that, on account of the civility of his behaviour, he would not appear to prosecute if he should hear of his being apprehended.

He attempted to rob a gentleman in a coach and four near Kensington, but, hearing some company on the road, he proceeded towards Hounslow, and on his way thither overtook a farmer, and robbed him of between forty and fifty shillings. He then took the road to Colubrook, and robbed a gentleman's servant of two guineas and a half, and a silver watch. After this he rode to Windsor, and returned to London by a different road.

His next expedition was on the Hounslow road; and at the entrance of the Heath he stopped two gentlemen, and robbed them of

seven guineas, some silver, and a curiously wrought silver snuff-box.

Returning to his lodgings near Hyde Park Corner one evening, he overtook a footman in Piccadilly, and, joining company with him, a familiar conversation took place, in the course of which Parsons learnt that the other was to set out early on the following Sunday with a portmanteau, containing cash and notes to a considerable value, the property of his master, who was then at Windsor.

On the Sunday morning he rode towards Windsor, intending to rob the footman. Soon after he had passed Turnham Green he overtook two gentlemen, one of whom was Mr. Fuller, who had prosecuted him at Rochester, and who, perfectly recollecting his person, warned him not to approach. However, he paid no attention to what Mr. Fuller said, but still continued sometimes behind and sometimes before them, though at a very inconsiderable distance.

Upon coming into the town of Hounslow, the gentlemen alighted, and commanded Parsons to surrender, adding that, if he did not instantly comply, they would alarm the town. He now dismounted, and earnestly entreated that the gentlemen would permit him to speak to them in private, which they consented to; and the parties being introduced to a room at an inn, Parsons surrendered his pistols, which were loaded and primed, and supplicated for mercy in the most pathetic terms.

In all probability he would have been permitted to escape, had not Mr. Day, then landlord of the Rose and Crown, at Hounslow, come into the room, and advised that he might be detained, as he conceived him very nearly to answer the description of a highwayman by whom

the roads in that part of the country had been long infested. He was secured at the inn till the next day, and then examined by a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

Parsons was now arraigned for returning from transportation before the expiration of the term of his sentence; nothing therefore remained to convict him but the identifying his person. This done, he received sentence of death. His distressed father and wife used all their interest to obtain for him a pardon, but in vain: he was an old offender, and judged by no means a fit object for mercy.

While Parsons remained in Newgate, his behaviour was such that it could not be determined whether he entertained a proper idea of his dreadful situation. There is, indeed, but too much reason to fear that the hopes of a reprieve (in which he deceived himself even to the last moments of his life) induced him to neglect the necessary preparation for eternity.

His taking leave of his wife afforded a scene extremely affecting: he recommended to her parental protection his only child, and regretted that his misconduct had put it in the power of a censorious world to reflect upon both the mother and son.

At the place of execution he joined in the devotional exercises with a fervency of zeal that proved him to be convinced of the necessity of obtaining the pardon of his Creator.

William Parsons, Esq. suffered at Tyburn, on the 11th of February, 1751.

In tracing the depraved and melancholy course of this ill-fated man, the humane reader cannot but be struck with the apparent hollow-heartedness and apathy of his father. It is, no doubt, difficult to tell the

precise degree of provocation Sir William had received; but we see that young Parsons was befriended, long after his natural protector had abandoned him, by an uncle, and several other more distant connexions; and it should be recollected that, if the child owes affection and patient forbearance towards its parent, the latter is no less bound to exercise similar duties towards the being whom he has been instrumental in bringing into the world. Nothing but the most hopeless and resolute depravity (if even that) should extinguish a father's tenderness; and it certainly does not appear to us that the

wretched subject of the preceding narrative had reached that point at the period of his utter desertion by the baronet. If, at their last recorded interview, instead of advising his penitent son to enter the horse-guards as a private, (for which purpose, too, he left him altogether unprovided,) Sir William Parsons had extended to him the feelings of real kindness and reconciliation, it is possible that his own name might have been saved from ignominy, and the youthful prodigal (who was then at an age, perhaps, the most susceptible of moral improvement) restored to his family, to himself, and to his God.

### THOMAS REYNOLDS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THIS traitor was a Roman Catholic, born and educated in Ireland. He was an excellent scholar, being master of the Latin and French languages. While a young man he went over to France, where he enlisted as an hussar, wearing false whiskers, his beard not yet being grown. On the rebel expedition being fitted out there to invade Scotland, he served, in the capacity of valet, an officer, who was killed at the battle of Culloden. After this he was taken at Carlisle, and, from speaking French so very fluently, was exchanged as a Frenchman.

Being a man of genteel address, he ingratiated himself so far into the good opinion of a rich widow, near Carlisle, as to persuade her to marry him:

'O Frailty, thy name is Woman!'

He soon, however, left the widow, taking away from her all he could lay his hands upon, and returned to France, where he got an appointment in the retinue of

the ambassador from that country to the Court of St. James's.

Having now some money, he determined on taking a public house, his master having attended King George II. on a visit to Hanover, and left him behind. He then sent for his wife to attend the bar, while he put in practice a plan which he had long had in contemplation, of seducing our soldiers, and enlisting them for the service of France; and in this treasonable practice he was too long successful. His public house was in St. Giles's, and frequented by lewd women and men of abandoned morals. Regarding the once splendid widow, in her present employ of waiting upon such vagabonds,

'Oh, what a falling off was there!'

Several soldiers of the guards frequented Reynolds' house, and, having already sent off some to France, he began to practise his deceit upon one Carns, a private soldier in the foot-guards. He persuaded him to take money for this service, and

showed him fourteen or fifteen suits of regimentals which had belonged to soldiers whom he had already sent to France. He desired him to cut off his hair, wear a smock frock, and to avoid the large towns, or pass through in the night, on his road to Dover. As a guard over him, he sent one of the prostitutes, many of whom he had at his command, who was to see him shipped, and give him money. Thus he meant to evade the proof of his having enlisted him.

Arrived at Dover, Carnes went to the castle, and disclosed the treason to the fort-major. The woman, finding this, fled back to London.

The insinuations which Reynolds used to tempt the soldiers from their loyalty were, to represent the severe punishments in the English army, and the lenity of that of the French; and that he had power to enlist for Lord Ogilvie's regiment, one of the finest in the French army, where they would be treated

like gentlemen. He gave them abundance of spirituous liquors, and sent prostitutes to keep them company, until he found an opportunity of shipping them. He also contributed, at different times, to send to France English arms and ammunition. All this was supposed to be for the purpose of another invasion and rebellion in Scotland.

The fort-major detained Carnes, and sent information to the War-office. Reynolds, before he could be apprized of this, was seized, his house searched, and different regimental clothing found concealed. He was convicted of the treason on the clearest evidence, and sentenced to be hanged, which sentence was carried into execution at Tyburn.

He protested his innocence to the very last moment of his life, and declared that he went to be hanged with as much satisfaction as though *again* going to be married.

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## NORMAN ROSS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

ABOUT the time when this man met his most deserved punishment the public journals teemed with accounts of the impudence and crimes of the party-coloured tribe of servants, denominated footmen. To such a daring pitch had they arrived as to commit a riot at the theatre in Drury Lane, even in the presence of the heir-apparent to the throne. One evening when the Prince and Princess of Wales, the father and mother of King George III. attended the performance, these miscreants commenced a dreadful uproar. It was then the custom to admit fellows in livery into the upper gallery *gratis* in compliment to their employers, on whom they were supposed to be in

attendance. Not content with peaceably witnessing the performance, they grew to such a pitch of impudence as to interrupt those who paid for admission, and, assuming the prerogative of critics, hissed or applauded with the most offensive clamour. In consequence of these violent proceedings the manager shut the door against them, unless they each paid their shilling.

One night, when that part of the royal family already mentioned were present, they mustered in a gang, to the number of three hundred, broke open the doors of the theatre, fought their way to the very door of the stage, and, in their progress, they wounded twenty-five peaceable people. Colonel De



Veil, then an active magistrate for Westminster, also happened to be present, and in vain attempted to read a proclamation against such an outrage; but, though they obstructed him in his duty, he caused the ringleaders to be secured, and the next day committed three of them to Newgate.

At the ensuing sessions they were convicted of the riot, and sentenced to imprisonment.

In the mean time, the choler of these upstarts was raised to such a pitch, that they sent the following threat to the manager:—

*'To Mr. Fleetwood, in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, Master of the Theatre, Drury Lane.'*

*'SIR,—We are willing to admonish you, before we attempt our design: and provided you use us civil, and admit us into our gallery, which is our property, according to formalities; and if you think proper to come to a composition this way, you'll hear no further; and, if not, our intention is to combine in a body, incognito, and reduce the playhouse to the ground; valuing no detection—we are indemnified!'*

The manager carried this letter to the Lord Chamberlain, who ordered a detachment of fifty soldiers to do duty there each night, and thus deterred the sancy knaves from carrying their threats into execution. From this time the gallery has been purged of such vermin. Even in the present day, let any one observe a footman there, who has since been obliged to pay for being admitted, and it will soon be

found that he is the most noisy insolent fellow of the whole audience.

At the Edinburgh theatre it was also a custom to admit men wearing the badge of servitude, into the gallery, *gratis*.

When Garrick's inimitable farce, called 'High Life Below Stairs,' wherein the waste and impudence of domestic servants of rich men is completely exposed, was performed, a most violent clamour broke out in the gallery, so as entirely to interrupt the performance, and put the other part of the audience in fear of the consequences. The hardy Scotchmen, however, laid hold of the rioters, and kicked every footman, who alone were concerned, out of the house, where, without paying, they never more entered.

Some short time after this abridgment of their misused pleasures gentlemen determined to abolish the disgraceful imposition on their guests, in giving money to their already over-pampered servants, which they looked for as an equal matter of right to their free admission to the theatres, and which they called *vales*; a word now happily exploded by modern lexicographers. This second infringement, as they called it, on their just prerogative, aroused them to more daring outrages of the law.

Sir George Saville, who took a leading part in this laudable domestic reformation, for its long endurance would have only tended to make them more impudent, had incendiary letters sent him, threatening his person, and to set fire to his noble mansion, unless he again permitted his servants to take *vales*.\*

\* About this time the Right Honorable Sir Francis Dashwood, Bart. also received a threatening letter from the same quarter, a copy of which, in order as well to show the ignorance as the daring effrontery of footmen, we subjoin:

*'Sir Frans Dashwood I have taken this hoper tunceto to a Quent You That if You do go hon as You do You sately lose Your Life and that Black that Lord Nerthampton and some more that I have not mentioned for when that You go to dine You go hout and neare leaves won farthen nor woot let your Sarvants tuk One farthen for if You dont*

In fact, the saucy knaves tagged to the thronged retinues of our men of overgrown fortunes, even to this day, levy contributions on their masters' tradesmen, and on such unfortunate people as they conceive approach the hall-door to sue for favour; ay, reader, 'tis very true; and, should you wish to see a lord, you must, even as you get admission to a lion, pay his serving-man. Without this introductory business being settled, even in this day of attempted reform, they will neither take up your letter, nor announce you, should you not be in the habit of egress and regress through the lofty hall, or massy gates they guard, to the gorgeous presence of their master. Without a fee, they will, with supercilious and contemptuous looks, view you from head to foot, demand your business, then equivocate, and cast an eye at your pocket, which, if you do not open, you will stand but a poor chance of conveying your business to the ear of their master.

Sir Robert Walpole, the minister of King George II. when pushed for a majority in the House of Commons, would say, 'Every man has his price:' and truly said Sir Robert; for we find the very vermin that crawl about wealth and power must be paid—they, too, must have their bribe. Even their masters might have failed in abolishing these vales, which were ex-

acted at every meal they partook of with a friend,\* had not government, by a proclamation, offered a reward for apprehending the author of the letter to Sir George Saville, so that he might be brought to conviction.

Ross was descended from reputable parents at Inverness, in the north of Scotland, who gave him a good education, and intended that he should be brought up in a merchant's counting-house; but, before he had completed his fifteenth year, his father and mother died, leaving Norman and several other children wholly unprovided for.

Norman made application for employment to several merchants; but, though he was well qualified for business, his proposals were rejected, because he could not raise the sum usually given upon entering into a merchant's service as an articulated clerk.

Thus situated, he engaged himself as footman to a widow lady of fortune, who, on account of having been acquainted with his parent, behaved to him with singular kindness. The lady, had a son who was then a military officer in Flanders; and, the campaign there being concluded, the young gentleman returned to his native country, to visit his mother, and transact some business particularly relating to himself.

Observing Ross to possess many

leave of You sarten shall have a Dose of Leden Pills and tha hare vere hard to digest for if Sarvants has but Nine Pounds tha cannot Ceep a Wife and Famele For Yeu must bild Work Howses and Cep Them but You will not live to se them bilt for I wod have Yout be all wase prepared for Deth for You do se that theare is nothing but robin upon the hi Way and that is o caisened by no thing Else but by starven the Poore Sarvants and so You must consider a bout This a fare for dam You You shall suffer and hall such Blacks and more such Blacks as Youer self and so I ham

'Yoner and be dam'd.'

His majesty's pardon was offered to any (except the person who sent it) that would discover those concerned; and Sir Francis Dashwood offered one hundred pounds for the like discovery, but the writer escaped.

\* The facetious Dean Swift, on leaving the table of a nobleman, said, 'Pray, my lord, shall I pay *here* for my dinner, or shall I give the price of it at the *door*, as I pass your hungry footmen?'

qualifications not usual to persons in his situation, he proposed taking him abroad, in the capacity of valet-de-chambre; and the old lady acquiesced in her son's desire.

Ross continued in the officer's service for the space of about five years, during which period he behaved with the utmost diligence and fidelity. The regiment being broke, on the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the officer set out on the tour of France and Italy, and Ross returned to Scotland, for the benefit of his native air.

Soon after his return to Scotland he recovered his health, and set out in order to pay his respects to his former mistress; but, learning that she had been dead about three weeks, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he was hired as a footman by an attorney-at-law. Having contracted an intimacy with a number of livery servants, he was seduced by their example to the practices of swearing, gaming, drinking, and other vices; and was dismissed from his service on account of his impudence and the irregularity of his conduct.

Ross now became footman to Mrs. Hume, a widow-lady of great fortune and remarkable piety.

In the winter she resided at Edinburgh, and in the summer at a village called Ayton, about four miles from the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. About four months after he had been hired by Mrs. Hume the lady removed to her house at Ayton; and, some time after, a female servant in the family, with whom he had maintained a criminal intercourse, was brought to bed; and it therefore became necessary for him to supply her with money for the support of herself and the infant.

He continued to provide her with the means of subsistence, from the month of April till August, by

borrowing money of his fellow-servants, and other persons with whom he was acquainted.

The woman at length becoming exceedingly importunate, and his resources being wholly exhausted, he was driven nearly to a state of distraction, and in that disposition of mind formed the fatal resolution of robbing his mistress.

Mrs. Hume slept on the first floor, in an apartment behind the dining-room, and, being unapprehensive of danger, her bed-chamber door was seldom locked; and with this circumstance Ross was well acquainted, as also that she usually put the keys of her bureau (and the other places where her valuable effects were deposited) under her pillow.

He determined to carry his execrable design into execution on a Sunday night; and, waiting in his bed-room without undressing himself till he judged the family to be asleep, he descended, and, leaving his shoes in the passage, proceeded to his lady's bed-chamber. Upon his endeavoring to get possession of the keys the lady was disturbed, and, being dreadfully alarmed, called for assistance; but, the rest of the family lying at a distant part of the house, her screams were not heard. Ross immediately seized a clasp-knife that lay on the table, and cut his mistress's throat in a most dreadful manner. This horrid act was no sooner perpetrated, than, without waiting to put on his shoes, or to secure either money or other effects, he leaped out of the window, and, after travelling several miles, concealed himself in a field of corn.

In the morning the gardener discovered a livery hat, which the murderer had dropped in descending from the window; and, suspecting that something extraordinary had happened, he alarmed his fellow-servants.



The disturbance in the house brought the two daughters of Mrs. Hume down stairs ; but no words can express the horror and consternation of the young ladies upon beholding their indulgent parent weltering in her blood, and the fatal instrument of death lying on the floor.

Ross being absent, and his shoes and hat being found, it was concluded that he must have committed the barbarous deed ; and the butler therefore mounted a horse, and alarmed the country, lest the murderous villain should escape. The butler was soon joined by great numbers of horsemen ; and on the conclusion of the day, when both men and horses were nearly exhausted through excessive fatigue, the murderer was discovered in a field of standing corn. His hands being tied behind him, he was taken to an adjacent public house, and on the following morning was conducted before a magistrate of Edinburgh, who committed him to prison.

On the trial of this offender, he had the effrontery to declare that his mistress usually admitted him to her bed, and that it was his constant practice to leave his shoes at the dining-room door. He said that upon entering the chamber he perceived the lady murdered, and leaped through the window in order to discover who had perpetrated the barbarous deed ; adding, that, having lost his hat, he did not choose to return till evening, and therefore concealed himself among the corn. He was severely reprimanded by the Court for aggravating his guilt by aspersing the character of a woman of remarkable virtue and piety, whom he had cruelly deprived of life.

The law of Scotland bore an

affinity to that of the Romans. It invested the judges with power to punish criminals in such manner as they might deem proportioned to their offences. This privilege was exercised in the case of Ross, whose crime having been attended with many aggravating circumstances, he was sentenced to have his right hand chopped off, then to be hanged till dead, the body to be hung in chains, and the right hand to be affixed at the top of the gibbet, with the knife made use of in the commission of the murder.

Upon receiving sentence of death he began seriously to reflect on his miserable situation, and the next day requested the attendance of Mr. James Craig, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, to whom he confessed his guilt, declaring that there was no foundation for his reflections against the chastity of the deceased.

Six weeks elapsed between the time of his trial and that of his execution, during which he was visited once every day by Mr. Craig. He showed every sign of the most sincere penitence, and refused to accompany two prisoners who broke out of gaol, saying he had no desire to recover his liberty, but, on the contrary, would cheerfully submit to the utmost severity of punishment, that he might make atonement for his wickedness.

The day appointed for putting the sentence of the law into force being arrived, Ross walked to the place of execution, holding Mr. Craig by the arm. Having addressed a pathetic speech to the populace, and prayed some time with great fervency of devotion, the rope was put, round his neck, and, the other end of it being thrown over the gallows, it was taken hold of by four chimney-sweepers.\* The cri-

\* The chimney-sweepers of Edinburgh were obliged to assist the executioner whenever required.



ninal now laid his right hand upon a block, and it was struck off by the executioner at two blows; immediately after which the chimney-sweepers, by pulling the rope, raised him from the ground: when he felt the rope drawing tight, by a convulsive motion he struck the bloody wrist against his cheek, which gave him an appearance too ghastly to admit of description. The body was placed in chains, and hung upon a gibbet, the hand being placed over the head with the knife stuck through it.

This offender was executed at Edinburgh on the 8th of January, 1751.

But little is necessary to be said on the case of this man, so obvious are the reflections that will occur to every reader. When he had committed the murder, such was the horror of his mind that he had not power to effect the robbery, which was his original design, or even to go to the door of the outward room for his shoes, though they were essentially necessary to his flight.



*Colley and the Mob ducking Osborne and his Wife for reputed Witchcraft.*

## THOMAS COLLEY,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

This is not the only case which we shall be able to present arising out of the dregs of the superstition of witchcraft. In the days of the immortal Shakspeare this imbecility of the people was at its height. His

writings, to suit the temper of the times, abound with ideal events. The scene in 'Macbeth,' of the Weird Sisters, is still represented in that inimitable tragedy.

The Ghost of Hamlet's father is

made a principal speaking character in the magnificent play of 'Hamlet;' and, indeed, is absolutely necessary to the admirable plot which the work contains.

The 'Tempest' of the great bard has its spirits, and the 'Comus' of Milton its enchantment. But it is hoped those times are past, and, Reason asserting her right in the mind of man, things supernatural have long been nearly disbelieved.

But not alone in Britain, and the then separate kingdom of Scotland, did this superstition prevail; all the civilized parts of Europe were tinctured with the same absurdity.

By the fanatics who first inhabited New England, in America, it was planted in all its terrors; and, before we proceed, we shall show that our brethren across the vast Atlantic put each other to death, under the forms of a court of law founded on the constitution of England, on charges of witchcraft.

The following copy of an indictment, furnished us by a friend who took it from the American Court record, must prove a matter of curiosity to the reader at the present enlightened era:—

'Essex, ss. (a town in the colony of Massachusetts Bay, in New England.)

'The jurors of our sovereign lord and lady, the king and queen (King William and Queen Mary), present, that George Burroughs, late of Falmouth, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, clerk (a Presbyterian minister of the Gospel), the ninth day of May, and divers other days and times, as well before as after, certain detestable arts, called witchcraft and sorceries, wickedly and feloniously hath used, practised, and exercised, at and in the town of Salem, in the county aforesaid, upon and against one Mary Walkot, single woman, by

which said wicked arts the said Mary, on the day aforesaid, and divers other days and times, as well before as after, was, and is, tortured, afflicted, pined, consumed, wasted, and tormented, against the peace, &c.'

A witness, by name Ann Putnam, deposed as follows: 'On the 8th of May, 1692, I saw the apparition of George Burroughs, who grievously tormented me, and urged me to write in his book, which I refused. He then told me that his two first wives would appear to me presently, and tell me a great many lies, but I must not believe them. Then immediately appeared to me the forms of two women in winding-sheets, and napkins about their heads; at which I was greatly affrighted. They turned their faces towards Mr. Burroughs, and looked red and angry, and told him that he had been very cruel to them, and that their blood called for vengeance against him; and they also told him that they should be clothed with white robes in Heaven when he should be cast down into hell; and he immediately vanished away. And as soon as he was gone the women turned their faces towards me, and looked as pale as a white wall; and told me they were Mr. Burroughs's two wives, and that he had murdered them. And one told me she was his first wife, and he stabbed her under the left breast, and put a piece of sealing-wax in the wound; and she pulled aside the winding-sheet, and showed me the place: she also told me that she was in the house where Mr. Daris, the minister of Danvers, then lived, when it was done. And the other told me that Mr. Burroughs, and a wife that he hath now, killed her in the vessel as she was coming to see her friends from the eastward, because they would have one another. And they

both charged me to tell these things to the magistrates before Mr. Burroughs's face; and, if he did not own them, they did not know but they should appear this morning. This morning, also, appeared to me another woman in a winding-sheet, and told me that she was Goodman Fuller's first wife, and Mr. Burroughs killed her, because there was a difference between her husband and him. Also, the ninth day of May, during his examination, he did most grievously torture Mary Walkot, Mercy Lewis, Elizabeth Hubbard, and Abigail Williams, by pinching, pricking, and choking them.'

Upon the above, and some other such evidence, was this unfortunate man condemned; and, horrible to relate, executed! Many other unhappy wretches suffered at the gallows on similar charges.

Having shown the mischief of this gross superstition in a world newly discovered, let us, before we proceed upon the trial of Colley, take a slight retrospect of the state of society in this respect, in the 16th century, on the more enlightened continent of Europe.

We find it asserted that, in the year 1562, a country-woman, named Michelle Chaudron, of the little territory of Geneva, met the devil in her way from the city! The devil gave her a kiss, received a homage, and imprinted on her upper lip and on her right breast the mark which he was wont to bestow upon his favorites. This seal of the devil was described to be a little sign upon the skin, which renders it insensible, as we are assured by all the demonographical civilians of those times.

The devil ordered Michelle Chaudron to bewitch two young girls. She obeyed her master punctually. The parents of the two girls ac-

cused her of dealing with the devil. The young women themselves, being confronted with the criminal, declared that they felt a continual prickling in some parts of their bodies, and that they were possessed. Physicians were called—at least men who passed for physicians in those days. They visited the girls. They sought for the seal of the devil on the body of Michelle, which seal is called, in the verbal process, the satanical mark. Into one of these marks they plunged a long needle, which was itself no small torture. Blood issued from the wound, and Michelle testified by her cries that the part was not insensible. The judges, not yet finding sufficient evidence that Michelle Chaudron was a witch, ordered her to be tortured, which infallibly produced the proof they wanted. The poor creature, overcome by pain, confessed at last every thing they desired.

The physicians sought again for the satanical mark, and found it in a little black spot on one of her thighs. Into this they plunged their needle. The poor creature, already exhausted, and almost expiring with the pain of the torture, was insensible to the needle, and did not cry out. She was instantly condemned to be burnt: but, the world beginning at this time to be a little more civilized, her murderers ordered her to be previously strangled.

In the year 1748, in the bishopric of Wurzburg, an old woman was convicted of witchcraft, and burnt. This was an extraordinary phenomenon in the eighteenth century, particularly among a people who boasted of having trampled superstition under their feet, and flattered themselves that they had brought their reason to perfection.

On the 18th of April, 1751, a man named Nichols went to Wil-



liam Dell, the crier of Hemel-Hempstead, in Hertfordshire, and delivered to him a piece of paper, with four-pence to cry the words written thereon; a copy of which is as follows:—

‘This is to give notice that on Monday next a man and a woman are to be publicly ducked at Tring, in this county, for their wicked crimes.’

This notice was given at Winslow and Leighton-Buzzard, as well as at Hemel-Hempstead, on the respective market-days, and was heard by Mr. Barton, overseer of the parish of Tring, who being informed that the persons intended to be ducked were John Osborne, and Ruth his wife, and having no doubt of the good character of both the parties, he sent them to the workhouse, as a protection from the rage of the mob.

On the day appointed for the practice of the infernal ceremony an immense number of people, supposed to be not fewer than five thousand, assembled near the workhouse at Tring, vowing revenge against Osborne and his wife, as a wizard and a witch, and demanding that they should be delivered up to their fury: they likewise pulled down a wall belonging to the workhouse, and broke the windows and window-frames.

On the preceding evening the master of the workhouse, suspecting some violence from what he heard of the disposition of the people, had sent Osborne and his wife to the vestry-room belonging to the church, as a place the most likely to secure them from insult.

The mob would not give credit to the master of the workhouse that the parties were removed, but, rushing into the house, searched it through, examining the closets, boxes, trunks, and even the salt-

box, in search of them. There being a hole in the ceiling which appeared to have been left by the plasterers, Colley, who was one of the most active of the gang, cried out ‘Let us search the ceiling!’ This being done by Charles Young with similar want of success, they swore they would pull down the house, and set fire to the whole town of Tring, except Osborne and his wife were produced.

The master of the workhouse, apprehensive that they would carry their threats into execution, informed them at length where the poor people were concealed; on which the whole mob, with Colley at their head, went to the church, and brought them off in triumph.

This being done, the merciless brutes conducted them to a pond called Marlston-Mere, where the man and woman, having been stripped, were separately tied up in a cloth; a rope was then bound round the body of the woman, under her arm-pits, and two men dragged her into the pond, and through it several times; Colley going into the pond, and, with a stick, turning her from side to side.

Having ducked her repeatedly in this manner, they placed her by the side of the pond, and dragged the old man in, and ducked him: then he was put by, and the woman ducked again as before, Colley making the same use of his stick. With this cruelty the husband was treated twice over, and the wife three times; during the last of which the cloth in which she was wrapped came off, and she appeared quite naked.

Not satisfied with this barbarity, Colley pushed his stick against her breast. The poor woman attempted to lay hold of it; but, her strength being now exhausted, she expired on the spot. Then Colley went round the pond, collecting money of the

populace for the *sport* he had shown them in ducking the old witch, as he called her.

The mob now departed to their several habitations: and the body, being taken out of the pond, was examined by Mr. Foster, a surgeon; and the coroner's inquest being summoned on the occasion, Mr. Foster deposed that, on examining the body of the deceased, he found no wound, either internal or external, except a little place that had the skin off on one of her breasts; and it was his opinion that she was suffocated with water and mud.

Herenpon Colley was taken into custody, and, when his trial came on, Mr. Foster deposed to the same effect as above mentioned; and there being a variety of other strong proofs of the prisoner's guilt, he was convicted, and received sentence of death; previously to which, however, he made the following defence: 'I happened to be so unfortunate as to be at Marlston Green, among other people, out of curiosity to see what the mob would do with John Osborne and his wife; where, seeing that they used them very barbarously, I went into the pond as a friend, to save her if I could; for I knew both very well, and never had any occasion to fall out with them, but bore them good will. As for the money I collected by the pond-side, it was for the great pains I had taken in the pond to save both the man and the woman.'

This defence was artful enough; but, as he brought no witnesses to support any part of it, the jury paid no regard to it.

After conviction this man seemed to behold his guilt in its true light of enormity. He became, as far as could be judged, sincerely penitent for his sins, and made good use of

the short time he had to live in a solemn preparation for eternity. On the day before his execution he received the sacrament, and then signed the following solemn declaration, which he requested might be dispersed through the several towns and villages in the county:—

'Good people,

'I beseech you all to take warning by an unhappy man's suffering, that you be not deluded into so absurd and wicked a conceit as to believe that there are any such beings upon earth as witches.

'It was that foolish and vain imagination, heightened and inflamed by the strength of liquor, which prompted me to be instrumental (with others as mad as myself) in the horrid and barbarous murder of Ruth Osborne, the supposed witch, for which I am now so deservedly to suffer death.

'I am fully convinced of my former error, and, with the sincerity of a dying man, declare that I do not believe there is such a thing in being as a witch; and pray God that none of you, through a contrary persuasion, may hereafter be induced to think that you have a right in any shape to persecute, much less endanger the life of, a fellow-creature. I beg of you all to pray to God to forgive me, and to wash clean my polluted soul in the blood of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer.

'So exhorteth you all,

'The dying

'THOMAS COLLEY.'

The day before his execution he was removed from the gaol of Hertford, under the escort of one hundred men of the Oxford Blues, commanded by seven officers; and, being lodged in the gaol of St. Albans, was put into a chaise at five o'clock the next morning, with the hangman, and reached the place of

execution about eleven, where his wife and daughter came to take leave of him; and the minister of Tring assisted him in his last moments, when he died exhibiting all the marks of unfeigned penitence.

He was executed the 24th of August, 1751, and his body afterwards hung in chains at a place called Gubblecut, near where the offence was committed.

It is astonishing that any persons could be so stupid as to believe in the ridiculous doctrine of witchcraft. How absurd to suppose that the power of Heaven is delegated to a weak and frail mortal; and, of all mortals, to a poor decrepid old woman! for we never hear of a young witch, but through the fascination of the eyes. Just when a woman has been poor and old enough to obtain the pity and compassion of every one; when nothing has remained to her but her innocence, her piety, and her tabby cat; then has she, by the voice of superstition, been dignified with the presumed possession of a power which the God of Heaven alone could exert!

It is remarkable, in the story before us, that the insurgents, in search of the presumed witch and wizard, had recourse to the salt-box. What a strange madness of credulity must have inflamed their minds! The reflection of a moment

would have told them that, if the old folks had possessed power to have contracted themselves within the compass of a salt-box, they would have been able to have disappeared entirely; or even to have destroyed their persecutors by a mere effort of the will.

Pity is it, for the honour of common sense and true religion, and for the sake of example throughout the kingdom, that others, as well as Colley, had not been punished for this atrocious murder. As it is, however, his death has been of public service. We have heard of no ducking of witches presumptive since that time.

Those who are acquainted with history will observe, that what would have been deemed meritorious in the reign of James the First became criminal in that of George the Second; thanks to the increasing good sense, knowledge, and learning of the age!

The first-mentioned monarch wrote a book on the subject of witchcraft, which he called 'Demonologia;' and the complaisant parliament of his days passed a bill to make it felony for any man or woman to be guilty of witchcraft! and in consequence thereof many innocent persons were murdered under the form of law; but this act has been repealed by the wisdom of later times.

### JOHN CATHIE, PATRICK KANE, AND DANIEL ALEXANDER,

PILLORIED FOR EXTORTION.

THERE are a set of villains constantly prowling for plunder in the metropolis and its environs, who extort money from men of property under threats of accusing them with some heinous or abominable crime.

Oftentimes the gentleman thus singled out by these conspirators,

though innocent, dreading even the breath of suspicion against his character, is terrified into consent to give them money; and, when once the devoted victim has thus yielded to their design, there is no end to the extortions from time to time made upon him; his whole fortune



would scarce satisfy the rapacity of such rascals.

In the present case the Hon. Edward Walpole became the mark of these extortioners. It appeared in evidence, on the trial of these men, that Mr. Walpole had been secretary to the Duke of Devonshire, while his grace was lord-lieutenant of Ireland; and, on his return to London, being in want of a confidential servant, he wrote to his friend Lord Boyle to procure him one, who some time after sent to England John Cather, the culprit above named, who was the son of one of his lordship's Irish tenants: but Mr. Walpole having in the mean time hired an English servant, with whom he was well satisfied, he declined taking him; but told him to remain in his house until a place could be found for him.

Thus was Cather, when he committed the basest act of ingratitude, maintained like a gentleman, Mr. Walpole having, from time to time, even supplied him with pocket money.

One day he was observed by one of Mr. Walpole's servants in new gay clothes, which he put on and off with much privacy, and slipped in and out of the house in a way that showed he did not wish to be seen in his new dress. This soon came to the knowledge of the master, who, confident that he could not honestly come by the means of procuring such articles, suspected he had been plundered, and forbade him his house.

From this moment the ingrate meditated revenge; and, when the mind is prone to vice, we soon find an opportunity of putting it into practice. Cather, during the time he enjoyed Mr. Walpole's bounty, having no employ, formed acquaintance with bad characters; among whom were a gang of his own

countrymen, who supported their excesses by extorting money: one of these was William Smith, who was hanged the 3d of October then last past.

These villains laid their snare for Mr. Walpole, but were therein caught themselves. He resisted their attempts, and caused them to be apprehended.

On the 5th of July, John Cather, Patrick Kane, Daniel Alexander, and — Dixon, were brought up to the King's Bench, charged with a conspiracy in swearing a disgraceful crime against the Hon. Edward Walpole. The trial lasted several hours, when they were found guilty, and received the following sentence:

John Cather to stand three times in and upon the pillory: the first time at Charing Cross, the second in Fleet Street, and the third in Cornhill; to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell Bridewell for the term of four years; then to give security, himself in forty pounds, and two sureties in twenty pounds each, for his good behaviour for four years more.

Patrick Kane to stand once upon the pillory, and to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell Bridewell two years; then to give the like security for five years more.

Daniel Alexander—'This man, ' Name it not in Gath—  
' Proclaim it not in the streets of Ascalon,' was an attorney-at-law, and solicitor to the conspirators!

The attorney, undoubtedly the greatest villain of the gang, was sentenced to stand once upon the pillory; to be imprisoned three years in the King's Bench Prison; to give security for good behaviour for three years more, himself in two hundred pounds, and two sureties in one hundred pounds each; and to be struck off the roll of attorneys.

Dixon ran away from his merited fate.

The law, which confiscates a man's estate for stealing a penny, and hangs him for thieving to the amount of a shilling, has hardly provided an adequate punishment for extortioners, conspirators, perjurers, swindlers, gamblers, and ragues of those descriptions.

To some men (and surely all such men must be lost to shame) the pillory would be no punishment. To stand with the head and hands fastened to a block of wood for an hour, and where no pain arises from the punishment, would hold up no terror to evil-doers, were not the honest populace, indignant at the law's not hanging such diabolical villains by the neck

on a gallows, in some measure to make good the defect. This was amply done on the present villains; they were most severely pelted and hooted.

These exemplary punishments were exhibited in the latter end of the year 1751.

Dixon, above mentioned, for a while eluded the search made after him; but, being at length taken, he was brought to trial, and on the 4th of May, 1752, sentenced by the Court of King's Bench to be imprisoned two years, to find sureties for his good behaviour, and to stand once upon the pillory at Charing Cross, where the mob treated him with no less severity than they had already done his quondam friends in villainy.

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#### RICHARD BUTLER, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

RICHARD BUTLER was born at Turlus, in the county of Tipperary, Ireland. His father was a reputable farmer, who bound him apprentice to a baker in Waterford. He proved so faithful and diligent a servant that he was held in universal esteem; and, upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, his father gave him a hundred pounds, for the purpose of establishing him in business.

The above sum enabled him to open a shop in Waterford, where he had a favorable prospect of success; but, instead of attending to his business, he frequented horse-races, cock-fighting, and other gaming meetings, and engaged in a variety of expenses greatly beyond what his income could afford; the consequence of which was, that in about six months his affairs were in a most embarrassed situation.

Being unable to continue his business, he returned to Turlus, where

he formed a great number of infamous stratagems for extorting money from his relations; and they threatened that, unless he quitted that part of the country, they would cause him to be apprehended, and proceed against him with the utmost rigour of the law.

Butler applied to a clergyman at Turlus, representing his case in a plausible manner, and supplicating that he would use his interest with his father to prevail upon him to grant twenty pounds in addition to his former favours. The worthy divine pleaded in behalf of the young man, and with the desired success. Upon delivering the money, the reverend gentleman exhorted him to apply it to a proper use; which he promised to do, adding that he would immediately depart for Cork, and not return to the place of his nativity till, by an unremitting perseverance in a system of integrity, he had made

atonement for all the errors of his past conduct.

On his arrival at Cork he procured employment as a journeyman; and in that capacity he was so industrious and strictly economical, that in a short time he made such addition to his stock that he was able to open a shop on his own account. He was much encouraged, and his circumstances were supposed to be more flourishing than they were in reality.

Coming into possession of a handsome sum of money, by marrying the widow of a custom-house officer who lived in the neighborhood, Butler took a tavern of considerable business, where his circumstances would have been much improved but for his connexions with maritime people, to whom he gave unlimited credit, and was under the necessity of taking smuggled goods in payment or losing his money.

An information being laid against him for having smuggled goods in his possession, his effects were seized for the use of the crown, and he was under the necessity of quitting Ireland.

Butler and his wife took shipping for Plymouth, and in that town they hired a house, which they let in lodgings to seafaring people. In about three years he was obliged to quit Plymouth, and repaired to the metropolis in a very distressed condition.

He had not been long in London before the grief consequent on the various scenes of distress she had passed through produced the death of his wife.

Butler being now in very distressed circumstances, he communicated his ease to some of his countrymen; and he yielded to their persuasions for acquiring a livelihood by forging seamen's wills.

Butler, Horne, and a woman named Catharine Gannon, went to the Navy-office to inquire what wages were due to Thomas Williamson, a foremast-man belonging to the *Namur*, and learnt that the sum was about thirty-eight pounds. They then made application to a proctor, the woman producing a forged will, and declaring herself to be the widow of Williamson. They were desired to call the next day, when a probate would be granted.

Butler and his female accomplice attended according to the appointment; but the proctor having, in the mean time, searched the offices, found that the will in question was opposed by four caveats; and, having further reason to suspect an intended fraud, he caused them to be apprehended. Being taken before the lord-mayor, Gannon acknowledged that she had received a few shillings from Butler and Horne, who had promised to make the sum up five pounds, on condition of her swearing herself to be the widow of Thomas Williamson. Butler was committed to Newgate; and Gannon and Horne were admitted evidences for the crown.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey Butler was tried and convicted. While under sentence of death he regularly attended prayers in the chapel, and employed a great part of his time in private devotions, agreeably to the doctrines of the Protestant faith. At the place of execution he prayed with great fervency of zeal, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and, after addressing the populace, was turned off.

The above malefactor was executed at Tyburn, February 10, 1751.

There is no species of forgery so liable to detection as that of a



will; for, before its validity can be established, it must pass through so many offices, and undergo such strict scrutiny, that a fraud of this nature can but very rarely succeed.

## THOMAS QUIN, JOSEPH DOWDELL, AND THOMAS TALBOT,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THE villainy disclosed in this narrative will show the necessity of the act of parliament for inflicting punishment on masters and mistresses giving a false character of a servant.

A corrupt servant is the most dangerous inmate of a house; and, therefore, too much caution cannot be used in admitting such domestics.

Quin, a murderer in his own country, Ireland, was recommended to London as a youth of good morals, while his disposition was base to a great degree.

Dowdell, who in his apprenticeship had injured his first master, procured a recommendation to another, to whom he also proved a villain.

Talbot, the third of this dangerous gang, after having robbed on the highway, and being afraid of apprehension, on applying to be restored to honest servitude, was refused; but his master, in pity to his distresses, recommended him to a nobleman, whom he took the first opportunity of robbing.

Quin was a native of Dublin, the son of honest, but poor, parents; and his father dying while he was a child, his uncle put him to school, and afterwards placed him apprentice to a buckle-maker, with whom he served three years faithfully; but, his friends supplying him with clothes too genteel for his rank in life, he began to associate with gay

company, and was guilty of many irregularities.

These thoughtless youths were frequently concerned in riots, and Quin was considered as the head of the party. In one of their nocturnal insurrections Quin murdered a man, whose friends, watching him to his master's house, desired that he might be delivered up to justice; but some of the journeymen, sallying forth with offensive weapons, drove off the people: a warrant, however, being issued for apprehending the murderer, his master advised him to depart for England.

A subscription for his use being raised by his friends, he came to London, having recommendations\* to some gentlemen in that city: but of these he made no use; for, frequenting the parlours of St. Giles's, he spent his money among the lowest of his countrymen, and then entered on board a man of war.

After a service of six months he quitted the ship at Leghorn, and sailed in another vessel to Jamaica, where he received his wages, which he soon spent. He now agreed to work his passage to England, and, the ship arriving in the port of London, he took lodgings in St. Giles's, and soon after became acquainted with Dowdell and Talbot, of whom we are now to give an account.

Dowdell was the son of a book-binder in Dublin, who, being in low circumstances, was unable to edu-

\* It seems strange, at this day, that an individual charged with murder should thus peaceably depart his native country, and still more so that he should get good recommendations in England; but such is the historical account of the fact.

cate his children as he could have wished. His son Joseph, who was remarkable for the badness of his disposition, he apprenticed to a breeches-maker; but the graceless youth grew weary of his place before he had served two years of his time.

Dowdell being ordered by his master to take proper care of some green leather, particularly to defend it from the snow, instead thereof heaped such quantities of snow and ice on it, that it was greatly reduced in value. This circumstance so exasperated his master, that he was glad to get rid of him by delivering up his indentures.

Thus at large, and the father ill able to support him, he was recommended to the service of a gentleman in the country, with whom he might have lived happily; but he behaved badly in his place, and, running away to Dublin, commenced pickpocket.

After some practice in this way he became connected with a gang of housebreakers, in company with whom he committed several depredations in Dublin. Having broken open a gentleman's house, he was opposed by the servants, and effected his escape only by the use he made of a hanger; soon after which he was taken by the watchmen, and, being carried before a magistrate, was committed to prison till the next morning. His person was advertised, and he was brought to trial; but, none of the servants being able to swear to him, he was acquitted for want of evidence.

He now renewed his dangerous practices, and committed a variety of robberies. The following is one of the most singular of his exploits:—Going to the house of a farmer near Dublin, he pretended to be a citizen who wanted a lodging for

the benefit of his health, and that he would pay a liberal price.

The unsuspecting farmer put his lodger into the best chamber, and supplied his table in the most ample manner. After a residence of ten days he asked the farmer's company to the town of Finglass, where he wanted to purchase some necessaries. The farmer attending him, Dowdell purchased some articles at different shops, till, seeing a quantity of gold in a till, he formed a resolution of appropriating it to his own use.

Having returned home with the farmer, Dowdell pretended to recollect that he had omitted to purchase some medicines, which he must take that night, and which had occasioned his going to Finglass. Hereupon the farmer ordered a horse to be saddled; and Dowdell set forward, on a promise to return before night.

On his arrival at Finglass he put up his horse, and, stealing unperceived into the shop above mentioned, he stole the till with the money, and immediately set out for Dublin.

In the interim the farmer, missing his lodger, went to Finglass, and, not finding him there, proceeded to Dublin, where he chanced to put up his horse at the same inn where Dowdell had taken up his quarters.

In a short time he saw our adventurer with some dealers, to whom he would have sold the horse; on which the farmer procured a constable, seized the offender, and lodged him in prison.

For this presumed robbery (a real one, doubtless, in the intention) he was brought to trial; but, it appearing that the farmer had intrusted him with the horse, he could be convicted of nothing more than a fraud, for which he received sentence of transportation.

The vessel in which he sailed, being overtaken by a storm, was dashed on the rocks of Cumberland, and many lives were lost; but several, among whom was Dowdell, swam on shore, and went to Whitehaven, where the inhabitants contributed liberally to their relief. Dowdell, travelling to Liverpool, entered on board a privateer, which soon took several prizes, which were intended to have been carried to Ireland; but, stress of weather driving them southwards, they made the port of Lisbon, where the prizes were sold, and Dowdell received sixty pounds to his share, which he soon squandered away in the most thoughtless extravagance. Being reduced to poverty, he robbed a Portuguese gentleman, for which he was apprehended, but afterwards released on the intercession of the gentlemen of the English factory; on which he sailed for England, and arrived at London.

He had not been long in the metropolis before he associated with a gang of pickpockets and street-robbers (among whom was one Carter), whose practice it was to commit depredations at the doors of the theatres. Dowdell had not long entered into this association before he and Carter went under the Piazzas in Covent Garden, where the latter demanded a gentleman's money, while Dowdell watched at a little distance, to give notice in case of a surprise. While Carter was examining the gentleman's pockets, he drew his sword, and killed the robber on the spot; and, a mob gathering at the instant, it was with great difficulty that Dowdell effected his escape.

He now went to the lodgings of a woman of ill fame, who having been heretofore kept by a man of rank, he had given her a gold watch and some trifling jewels,

which Dowdell advised her to pawn, to raise him ready money.

The girl hesitating to comply, he beat her in a most violent manner; on which she swore the peace against him. Hereupon he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged at the next sessions, no prosecution being commenced against him.

He was no sooner at large than he made a connexion with a woman of the town, whom an officer had taken to Gibraltar, and during her residence with him she had saved a hundred moidores. Dowdell, having possessed himself of this sum, soon spent it extravagantly, and then prevailed on her to pawn her clothes for his support.

Talbot was likewise the son of poor parents, who lived in Wapping; and, having received a common education, he engaged himself as the driver of a postchaise in the service of a livery-stable keeper in Piccadilly. While he was driving two gentlemen on the Bath road a highwayman stopped the carriage, and robbed them of their watches and money.

This circumstance gave Talbot an idea of acquiring money by illicit means; wherefore, on his return to London, he made himself acquainted with some highwaymen, assuring them that he was properly qualified to give them the intelligence necessary for the successful management of their business.

His proposal met with a ready acceptance; and a company having soon afterwards hired a coach-and-six of his master to go to Bath, Talbot gave one of the highwaymen notice of the affair; and it was resolved that the robbery should be committed on Hounslow Heath.

The highwayman, meeting the carriage on the appointed spot, robbed the parties of all they had; so that they were obliged to return



to London for money before they could pursue their journey. Talbot's share of this ill-gotten booty amounted to fifty pounds, which gave him such spirits that he resolved to pursue the same iniquitous mode of living.

In consequence of this resolution Talbot informed the highwayman of some company going to Bath, and he attempted to rob them; but a gentleman in the carriage shot him dead on the spot.

Mortified at this accident which had befallen his friend, Talbot no sooner arrived in London than he determined to resign his employment, and commence robber on his own account; but, previously to engaging in this business, he spent his ready money in the worst company.

After several attempts to commit robberies, and having narrowly escaped the hands of justice, he grew sick of his employment, and requested his former master to take him into his service. This he declined; but, in pity to his distress, recommended him to a nobleman, in whose family he was engaged.

Talbot had been but a short time in his new place before he robbed the house of several articles of value, which he sold to the Jews, to supply the extravagance of one of the maid-servants, with whom he had an amour.

This theft was not discovered at the time; but Talbot was soon discharged from his place in consequence of the badness of his temper, which rendered him insupportable to his fellow-servants.

On his dismissal he spent his ready money with the most abandoned company, and then, commencing housebreaker, committed a variety of depredations in the neighborhood of London; for one of which he was apprehended, and

brought to trial at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of evidence.

On the very evening he was acquitted he stopped a carriage in Drury Lane, and robbed a gentleman of his money, which he soon spent among the most dissolute of both sexes; and, within a week afterwards, he broke into a house at Westminster, where he obtained plate and cash to a large amount, but was not apprehended for this offence.

In a few days he was taken into custody for picking a gentleman's pocket, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, sentenced to be transported for seven years, shipped to America, and sold to slavery.

He had not been long in this situation when he embarked at Boston, in New England, on board a privateer: but, when at sea, he entered into a conspiracy with some of the sailors to murder the officers, and seize the vessel. This confederacy being discovered in time, a severe punishment was inflicted on Talbot and the other villains.

Talbot, quitting the privateer, sailed to England in a man of war, and, engaging with some street-robbers in London, was apprehended, convicted, and sentenced to die: but he found interest to obtain a pardon on condition of transportation.

However, he had not been long abroad before he returned, in company with an abandoned woman who had been transported at the same time; and this woman introduced him to the acquaintance of Quin and Dowdell, in company with whom he committed a great number of depredations.

These accomplices robbed six coaches in one evening, and obtained considerable plunder; but, this being soon spent in extravagance, they at length embarked in

an adventure which cost them their lives.

Having made a connexion with one Cullen, they all joined in a street-robbery, and, stopping a coach near Long Acre, deprived a gentleman of his watch and money.

Some people, being informed of the affair, immediately pursued them; and Cullen, being taken into custody, was admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were apprehended on the following day.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, they received sentence of death; but, after conviction, seemed as little sensible of the enormity of their crimes as almost any offenders

whose cases we have had occasion to record.

Dowdell and Quin were Roman Catholics; and Talbot refusing to join in devotion with the Ordinary of Newgate at the place of execution, we can say nothing of the disposition of mind in which they left this world.

These malefactors suffered at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1751.

'At length these miserable robbers see,  
Unhappy fruit! suspended on the tree:  
They teach, sad lesson! in their wretched state,  
That shame and ruin are the villain's fate;  
And that, too late, each guilty man will find  
That Justice, sometimes slow, is never blind.'

### FREDERICK CAULFIELD,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

AMONGST the various histories of singular dreams and corresponding events, we have just met with the account of one, which seems, to say the least of it, exceedingly curious; and, though we are not much inclined to credit such tales of extraordinary prescience, still we are not incredulous enough to doubt the existence of a spiritual world, where more things happen than philosophers have dreamt of.

Adam Rogers (a creditable man, as the account has it, who kept a public house at Portlaw, a small village nine or ten miles from Waterford, in Ireland) dreamed one night that he saw two men at a particular green spot on an adjacent mountain; one of them a sickly-looking man, the other remarkably strong and large. He then fancied that he saw the little man murder the other, and awoke in great agitation. The circumstances of the dream were so distinct and forcible, that he continued much affected by them. He related them to his

wife, and also to several neighbours, next morning. After some time he went out coursing with greyhounds, accompanied, amongst others, by Mr. Browne, the Roman Catholic priest of the parish. He soon stopped at the above-mentioned particular green spot on the mountain, and, calling to Mr. Browne, pointed it out to him, and told him what had appeared in his dream. During the remainder of the day he thought little more about it. Next morning, however, he was extremely startled at seeing two strangers enter his house, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. He immediately ran into an inner room, and desired his wife to take particular notice of them, for they resembled precisely the two men that he had seen in his dream.

When they had consulted with one another, their apprehensions were alarmed for the little weakly man, though contrary to the appearance in the dream. After the strangers had taken some refresh-

ment, and were about to depart, in order to prosecute their journey, Rogers earnestly endeavored to dissuade the little man from quitting his house and going on with his fellow-traveller. He assured him that, if he would remain with him that day, he would himself accompany him to Carrick next morning, that being the town to which the travellers were proceeding. He was unwilling and ashamed to tell the cause of his being so solicitous to separate him from his companion; but as he observed that Hickey, which was the name of the little man, seemed to be quiet and gentle in his deportment, and had money about him, and that the other had a ferocious bad countenance, the dream still recurred to him. He dreaded that something fatal would happen, and wished, at all events, to keep them asunder. However, the humane precautions of Rogers proved ineffectual; for Caulfield (such was the other's name) prevailed upon Hickey to continue with him on their way to Carrick, declaring that, as they had long travelled together, they should not part, but remain together until he should see Hickey safely arrive at the habitation of his friends. The wife of Rogers was much dissatisfied when she found they were gone, and blamed her husband exceedingly for not being absolutely peremptory in detaining Hickey.

About an hour after they left Portlaw, in a lonely part of the mountain, just near the place observed by Rogers in his dream, Caulfield took the opportunity of murdering his companion. It appeared afterwards, from his own account of the horrid transaction, that, as they were getting over a ditch, he struck Hickey on the back part of his head with a stone; and, when he fell down into the

trench in consequence of the blow, Caulfield gave him several stabs with a knife, and cut his throat so deeply that the head was observed to be almost severed from the body. He then rifled Hickey's pockets of all the money in them, took part of his clothes, and every thing else of value about him, and afterwards proceeded on his way to Carrick. He had not been long gone when the body, still warm, was discovered by some labourers who were returning to their work from dinner. The report of the murder soon reached Portlaw. Rogers and his wife went to the place, and instantly knew the body of him whom they had in vain endeavored to dissuade from going on with his treacherous companion. They at once spoke out their suspicions that the murder was perpetrated by the fellow-traveller of the deceased. An immediate search was made, and Caulfield was apprehended at Waterford the second day after. He was brought to trial at the ensuing assizes, and convicted of the fact. It appeared on the trial, amongst other circumstances, that when he arrived at Carrick he hired a horse, and a boy to conduct him, not by the usual road, but by that which runs on the north side of the river Suir to Waterford, intending to take his passage in the first ship from thence to Newfoundland. The boy took notice of some blood on his shirt, and Caulfield gave him half a crown to promise not to speak of it. Rogers proved not only that Hickey was seen last in company with Caulfield, but that a pair of new shoes which Hickey wore had been found on the feet of Caulfield when he was apprehended, and that a pair of old shoes which he had on at Rogers's house were upon Hickey's feet when the body was found. He described with



great exactness every article of their clothes. Caulfield, on the cross-examination, shrewdly asked him from the dock, whether it was not very extraordinary that he, who kept a public house, should take such particular notice of the dress of a stranger accidentally calling there? Rogers, in his answer, said he had a very particular reason, but was ashamed to mention it. The Court and prisoner insisting on his declaring it, he gave a circumstantial narrative of his dream; called upon Mr. Browne, the priest, who was then in the Court, to corroborate his testimony; and said that his wife had severely reproached him for permitting Hickey to leave their house, when he knew that, in the short foot-way to Carrick, they must necessarily pass by the green spot in the mountain which had appeared in his dream. A number of witnesses came forward; and the proofs were so strong that the jury, without hesitation, found the panel guilty. It was remarked, as a singularity, that he happened to be tried and sentenced by his namesake, Chief Justice Caulfield.

After sentence the convict confessed the fact. It came out that Hickey had been in the West Indies two-and-twenty years; but, falling into a bad state of health, he was returning to his native country, Ireland, bringing with him some money that his industry had acquired. The vessel on board which he took his passage was, by stress of weather, driven into Minehead. He there met with Frederic Caulfield, an Irish sailor, who was poor, and much distressed for clothes and common necessities. Hickey, compassionating his poverty, and finding he was his countryman, relieved his wants, and an intimacy commenced between them. They agreed to go to Ireland together;

and it was remarked on their passage that Caulfield spoke contemptuously of the other, often saying it was a pity such a puny fellow as Hickey should have money, and he himself be without a shilling. They landed at Waterford, at which place they stayed some days, Caulfield being all the time supported by Hickey, who bought there some clothes for him.

The assizes being held in the town during that time, it was afterwards recollected that they were both at the court-house, and attended the whole of the trial of a shoemaker, who was convicted of the murder of his wife. This, however, made no impression on the hardened mind of Caulfield; for the very next day he perpetrated a like crime on the road betwixt Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir, near which town Hickey's relations lived.

He walked to the gallows with a firm step and undaunted countenance. He spoke to the multitude who surrounded him; and, in the course of his address, mentioned that he had been bred at a charter-school, from which he was taken, as an apprenticed servant, by William Izod, Esq. of the county of Kilkenny. From this station he ran away on being corrected for some faults, and had been absent from Ireland about six years. He confessed also that he had several times intended to murder Hickey on the road between Waterford and Portlaw; which though in general not a road much frequented, yet people at that time continually coming in sight prevented him.

Being frustrated in all his vile schemes, the sudden and total disappointment threw him, probably, into an indifference for life. Some tempers are so stubborn and rugged



that nothing can affect them but immediate sensation. If to this be united the darkest ignorance, death to such characters will hardly seem

terrible, because they can form no conception of what it is, and still less of the consequences that may follow.



*Mary Blandy confessing having poisoned her Father.*

### MARY BLANDY,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER FATHER.

It has been a melancholy remark that two young ladies—Miss Jefferies and Miss Blandy—well educated, and of considerable expectations from the parents whom they murdered, should, as it were, at the same moment contemplate the death of their protectors.

Yet, though Miss Blandy's crime was committed on blood nearest in consanguinity, she does not appear to have been that determined murderess we find in Miss Jefferies.

Public conversation was long divided on their fate, and in comparisons of their different degrees of crimes.

There is too much reason to

fear that both had been seduced by villainous men: but Miss Jefferies, as will be seen, was a premeditated and determined murderess. Over the fate of the wretched Miss Blandy we may indulge somewhat of commiseration; for the profligate wretch who seduced her was a disgrace to the noble blood from which he derived existence; and what renders his crime more heinous was his being a married man.

It will appear that, had not this corrupt twig of the noble branch of the tree of genealogy from which he grew spread his insidious snares to entangle the heart and corrupt the

mind of Miss Blandy, she would not have been guilty of the abominable and unnatural crime of parricide.

In a moral point of view, though the law may not immediately overtake the villainy, we would appeal to the hearts of the readers of our own sex—nay, we would ask the question, in cooler moments of youth—‘Can there be a more destructive vice than the seduction of a virtuous female, under promise of marriage?’ Will not your inflamed passions cool? and then what must be the stings of conscience when you find the too-willing sacrifice to your lust a wretched creature, neglected by her friends, the scorn of the virtuous part of her sex, and the prey of your own?

Thus are we led to acknowledge, with sorrow, the lines of the poet, on a seduced woman:—

‘Man, the lawless libertine, may rove,  
Free and unquestion’d, thro’ the paths of  
love :

But woman, sense and nature’s easy fool—  
If poor weak woman swerve from virtue’s  
rule—

If, strongly charm’d, she tempt the flow’ry  
way,

And in the softer paths of pleasure stray—  
Ruin ensues, remorse, and endless shame,  
And one false step entirely damns her fame :  
In vain with tears the loss she may de-  
plore,

In vain look back to what she was before ;  
She sets, like stars that fall, to rise no more.’

Mary Blandy was the only daughter of a Mr. Francis Blandy, an eminent attorney at Henley-upon-Thames, and town-clerk of that place. She had been educated with the utmost tenderness; and every possible care was taken to impress her mind with sentiments of virtue and religion. Her person had nothing in it remarkably engaging, but she was of a sprightly and affable disposition, of polite manners, engaging in conversation, and was much distinguished by her good sense.

She had read the best authors in the English language, and had a memory remarkably retentive of the knowledge she had acquired. In a word, she excelled most of her sex in those accomplishments which are calculated to grace and dignify the female mind.

The father being reputed to be rich, a number of young gentlemen courted his acquaintance, with a view to make an interest with his daughter: but, of all the visitors, none were more agreeable, both to father and daughter, than the gentlemen of the army; and the former was never better pleased than when he had some of them at his table.

Miss Blandy was about twenty-six years of age when she became acquainted with Captain William Henry Cranstoun, who was then about forty-six. He was the son of Lord Cranstoun, of an ancient Scotch family, which had made great alliances, by intermarriages, with the nobility of Scotland. Being a younger brother, his uncle, Lord Mark Ker, procured him a commission in the army, which, with the interest of fifteen hundred pounds, was all he had for his support.

Cranstoun married a Miss Murray in Scotland, in the year 1745, and received a handsome fortune with her; but he was defective in the great article of prudence. His wife was delivered of a son within a year after the marriage. About this period he received orders to join his regiment in England, and was afterwards sent on a recruiting party to Henley, which gave rise to the unhappy connexion which ended so fatally.

It may seem extraordinary, and is, perhaps, a proof of Cranstoun’s art, that he could ingratiate himself into the affections of Miss Blandy; for his person was diminutive, he was so marked with the small pox

that his face was in seams, and he squinted very much : but he possessed that faculty of small-talk which is unfortunately too much esteemed by many of the fair sex.

Mr. Blandy, who was acquainted with Lord Mark Ker, was fond of being deemed a man of taste, and so open to flattery, that it is not to be wondered at that a man of Cranstoun's artifice ingratiated himself into his favour, and obtained permission to pay his addresses to the daughter.

Cranstoun, apprehending that Miss Blandy might discover that he had a wife in Scotland, informed her that he was involved in a disagreeable lawsuit in that country with a young lady, who claimed him as a husband ; and so sure was he of the interest he had obtained in Miss Blandy's affections, that he had the confidence to ask her if she loved him well enough to wait the issue of the affair. She told him that, if her father and mother approved of her staying for him, she had no objection.

This must be allowed to have been a very extraordinary declaration of love, and as extraordinary a reply.

Cranstoun endeavored to conduct the amour with all possible secrecy ; notwithstanding which it came to the knowledge of Lord Mark Ker, who wrote to Mr. Blandy, informing him that the captain had a wife and children in Scotland, and conjuring him to preserve his daughter from ruin.

Alarmed by this intelligence, Mr. Blandy informed his daughter of it ; but she did not seem equally affected, as Cranstoun's former declaration had prepared her to expect some such news ; and, when the old gentleman taxed Cranstoun with it, he declared it was only an affair of gallantry, of which he

should have no difficulty to free himself.

Mrs. Blandy appears to have been under as great a degree of infatuation as her daughter, for she forbore all farther inquiry, on the captain's bare assurance that the report of his marriage was false. Cranstoun, however, could not be equally easy. He saw the necessity of devising some scheme to get his first marriage annulled, or of bidding adieu to all the gratifications he could promise himself by a second.

After revolving various schemes in his mind, he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband. The substance of this letter was, that, ' having no other way of rising to preferment but in the army, he had but little ground to expect advancement there, while it was known he was encumbered with a wife and family ; but, could he once pass for a single man, he had not the least doubt of being quickly preferred, which would procure him a sufficiency to maintain her, as well as himself, in a genteeler manner than now he was able to do. All, therefore, (adds he) I have to request of you is, that you will transcribe the enclosed copy of a letter, wherein you disown me for a husband ; put your maiden name to it, and send it by the post : all the use I shall make of it shall be to procure my advancement, which will necessarily include your own benefit. In full assurance that you will comply with my request, I remain, your most affectionate husband,

' W. H. CRANSTOUN.'

Mrs. Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced to give up her claim, and at length sent



him the requested paper, signed Murray, which was her maiden name.

The villainous captain, being possessed of this letter, made some copies of it, which he sent to his wife's relations, and his own: the consequence of which was that they withdrew the assistance they had afforded the lady, which reduced her to an extremity she had never before known.

Exclusive of this, he instituted a suit before the lords of session, for the dissolution of the marriage; but when Mrs. Cranstoun was heard, and the letters read, the artful contrivance was seen through, the marriage was confirmed, and Cranstoun was adjudged to pay the expenses of the trial.

At the next sessions Captain Cranstoun preferred a petition, desiring to be heard by counsel on new evidence, which it was pretended had arisen respecting Miss Murray. This petition, after some hesitation, was heard; but the issue was, that the marriage was again confirmed, and Cranstoun was obliged to allow his wife a separate maintenance.

Still, however, he paid his addresses to Miss Blandy with the same fervency as before; which coming to the knowledge of Mrs. Cranstoun, she sent her the decree of the Court of Session, establishing the validity of the marriage.

It is reasonable to suppose that this would have convinced Miss Blandy of the erroneous path in which she was treading. On this occasion she consulted her mother: and, Cranstoun having set out for Scotland, the old lady advised her to write to him, to know the truth of the affair.

Absurd as this advice was, she wrote to him; but, soon after the receipt of her letter, he returned

to Henley, when he had impudence enough to assert that the cause was not finally determined, but would be referred to the House of Lords.

Mr. Blandy gave very little credit to this assertion; but his wife assented at once to all Cranstoun said, and treated him with as much tenderness as if he had been her own child; of which the following circumstance will afford ample proof.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter being on a visit to Mrs. Pocock, of Turville Court, the old lady was taken so ill as to be obliged to continue there for some days. In the height of her disorder, which was a violent fever, she cried 'Let Cranstoun be sent for.' He was then with the regiment at Southampton; but, her request being complied with, she no sooner saw him than she raised herself on the pillow, and hung round his neck, repeatedly exclaiming 'My dear Cranstoun, I am glad you are come; I shall now grow wellsoon!' So extravagant was her fondness, that she insisted on having him as her nurse; and he actually administered her medicines.

On the following day she grew better; on which she said 'This I owe to you, my dear Cranstoun; your coming has given me new health and fresh spirits. I was fearful I should die, and you not here to comfort that poor girl. How like death she looks!'

It would be ungenerous to the memory of Mrs. Blandy to suppose that she saw Cranstoun's guilt in its true light of enormity; but certainly she was a most egregious dupe to his artifices.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter having come to London, the former wanted forty pounds, to discharge a debt she had contracted unknown to her husband; and Cranstoun

coming into the room while the mother and the daughter were weeping over their distresses, he demanded the reason of their grief; of which being informed, he left them, and, soon returning with the requisite sum, he threw it into the old lady's lap. Charmed by this apparent generosity, she burst into tears, and squeezed his hand fervently; on which he embraced her, and said, 'Remember it is a son; therefore do not make yourself uneasy: you do not lie under any obligation to me.'

Of this debt of forty pounds, ten pounds had been contracted by the ladies while in London, for expenses in consequence of their pleasures; and the other thirty by expensive treats given to Cranstoun at Henley, during Mr. Blandy's absence.

Soon after this Mrs. Blandy died; and Cranstoun now complaining of his fear of being arrested for the forty pounds, the young lady borrowed that sum, which she gave him, and made him a present of her watch: so that he was a gainer by his former apparent generosity.

Mr. Blandy began now to show evident dislike of Captain Cranstoun's visits: but he found means to take leave of the daughter, to whom he complained of the father's ill treatment; but insinuated that he had a method of conciliating his esteem; and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders proper for the purpose; on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write, 'Powders to clean the Scotch pebbles.'

It does not appear that the young lady had any idea that the powders he was to send her were of a poisonous nature. She seems rather to have been infatuated by her love; and this is the only excuse that can be made for her subse-

quent conduct, which appears otherwise totally inconsistent with that good sense for which she was celebrated.

Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise; and Mr. Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'night before his death, Susan Gummel, a maid-servant, made him some water-gruel, into which Miss Blandy conveyed some of the powder, and gave it to her father; and, repeating this draught on the following day, he was tormented with the most violent pains in his bowels.

When the old gentleman's disorder increased, and he was attended by a physician, his daughter came into the room, and, falling on her knees to her father, said, 'Banish me where you please; do with me what you please, so you do but forgive me; and, as for Cranstoun, I will never see him, speak to him, or write to him, as long as I live, if you will forgive me.'

In reply to this the father said, 'I forgive thee, my dear, and I hope God will forgive thee; but thou shouldst have considered before thou attemptedst any thing against thy father; thou shouldst have considered I was thy own father.'

Miss Blandy now acknowledged that she had put powder in his gruel, but that it was for an innocent purpose; on which the father, turning in his bed, said, 'O such a villain! to come to my house, eat of the best and drink of the best my house could afford; and, in return, take away my life, and ruin my daughter. O! my dear, thou must hate that man.'

The young lady replied, 'Sir, every word you say is like a sword piercing to my heart; more severe than if you were angry: I must kneel, and beg you will not curse me.' The father said, 'I curse

thee, my dear! how couldst thou think I would curse thee? No, I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee, and amend thy life. Do, my dear, go out of the room; say no more, lest thou shouldst say any thing to thy own prejudice. Go to thy uncle Stephens; and take him for thy friend: poor man! I am sorry for him.'

Mr. Blandy dying in consequence of his illness, it was suspected that the daughter had occasioned his death; whereupon she was taken into custody, and committed to the gaol at Oxford.

She was tried on the 3d of March, 1752; and, after many witnesses had been called to give evidence of her guilt, she was desired to make her defence, which she did in the following speech:—

'My Lord,—It is morally impossible for me to lay down the hardships I have received.—I have been aspersed in my character. In the first place it has been said I spoke ill of my father; that I have cursed him, and wished him at hell; which is extremely false. Sometimes little family affairs have happened, and he did not speak to me so kindly as I could wish. I own I am passionate, my lord; and in those passions some hasty expressions might have dropped; but great care has been taken to recollect every word I have spoken at different times, and to apply them to such particular purposes as my enemies knew would do me the greatest injury. These are hardships, my lord, such as yourself must allow to be so. It was said too, my lord, that I endeavored to make my escape. Your lordship will judge from the difficulties I labored under:—I had lost my father;—I was accused of being his murderer;—I was not permitted to go near him;—I was forsaken by my friends—affronted

by the mob—and insulted by my servants.—Although I begged to have the liberty to listen at the door where he died, I was not allowed it. My keys were taken from me; my shoe-buckles and garters too—to prevent me from making away with myself, as though I was the most abandoned creature. What could I do, my lord? I verily believe I must have been out of my senses. When I heard my father was dead, I ran out of the house, and over the bridge, and had nothing on but a half sack and petticoats, without a hoop—my petticoats hanging about me. The mob gathered round me. Was this a condition, my lord, to make my escape in? A good woman beyond the bridge, seeing me in this distress, desired me to walk in till the mob was dispersed: the town-sergeant was there. I begged he would take me under his protection, to have me home: the woman said it was not proper, the mob was very great, and that I had better stay a little. When I came home they said I used the constable ill. I was locked up for fifteen hours, with only an old servant of the family to attend me. I was not allowed a maid for the common decencies of my sex. I was sent to gaol, and was in hopes there at least this usage would have ended; but was told it was reported I was frequently drunk; that I attempted to make my escape; that I did not attend at chapel. A more abstemious woman, my lord, I believe, does not live.

'Upon the report of my making my escape, the gentleman who was high-sheriff last year (not the present) came and told me, by order of the higher powers, he must put an iron on me. I submitted as I always do, to the higher powers. Some time after he came again, and



said he must put a heavier one upon me; which I have worn, my lord, till I came hither. I asked the sheriff why I was so ironed. He said he did it by the command of some noble peer, on his hearing that I intended making my escape. I told him I never had any such thought, and I would bear it with the other cruel usage I had received on my character. The Reverend Mr. Swinton, the worthy clergyman who attended me in prison, can testify I was regular at the chapel whenever I was well: sometimes I really was not able to come out, and then he attended me in my room. They have likewise published papers and depositions, which ought not to have been published, in order to represent me as the most abandoned of my sex, and to prejudice the world against me. I submit myself to your lordship, and to the worthy jury. I do assure your lordship, as I am to answer at the great tribunal where I must appear, I am as innocent as the child unborn of the death of my father. I would not endeavour to save my life at the expense of truth: I really thought the powder an innocent inoffensive thing; and I gave it to procure his love (meaning towards Craunston). It has been mentioned, I should say, I was ruined. My lord, when a young woman loses her character, is not that her ruin? Why, then, should this expression be construed in so wide a sense? Is it not ruining my character to have such a thing laid to my charge? And, whatever may be the event of this trial, I am ruined most effectually.'

The trial lasted eleven hours, and then the judge summed up the evidence, mentioning the scandalous behaviour of some people respecting the prisoner, in printing and publishing what they called de-

positions taken before the coroner relating to the affair before them: to which he added, 'I hope you have not seen them; but, if you have, I must tell you, as you are men of sense and probity, that you must divest yourselves of every prejudice that can arise from thence, and attend merely to the evidence that has now been given.'

The judge then summed up the evidence with the utmost candour; and the jury, having considered the affair, found her guilty without going out of court.

After conviction she behaved with the utmost decency and resignation. She was attended by the Reverend Mr. Swinton, from whose hands she received the sacrament on the day before her execution, declaring that she did not know there was any thing hurtful in the powders she had given her father.

The night before her death she spent in devotion; and at nine in the morning of the 6th of April, 1752, she left her apartment, being dressed in a black bombasin, and having her arms bound with black ribands.

The clergyman attended her to the place of execution, to which she walked with the utmost solemnity of deportment; and, when there, acknowledged her fault in administering the powders to her father; but declared that, as she must soon appear before the most awful tribunal, she had no idea of doing injury, nor any suspicions that the powders were of a poisonous nature.

Having ascended some steps of the ladder, she said 'Gentlemen, don't hang me high, for the sake of decency.' Being desired to go something higher, she turned about, and expressed her apprehensions that she should fall. The rope being put round her neck, she

pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading.

The crowd of spectators assembled on this occasion was immense; and when she had hung the usual time she was cut down, and the body, being put into a hearse, was conveyed to Henley, and interred with her parents, at one o'clock on the following morning.

It will now be proper to return to Cranstoun, who was the original contriver of this horrid murder. Having heard of Miss Blandy's commitment to Oxford gaol, he concealed himself some time in Scotland, and then escaped to Boulogne, in France. Meeting there with Mrs. Ross, who was distantly related to his family, he acquainted her with his situation, and begged her protection; on which she advised him to change his name for her maiden name of Dunbar.

Some officers in the French service, who were related to his wife, hearing of his concealment, vowed revenge, if they should meet with him, for his cruelty to the unhappy

woman: on which he fled to Paris, from whence he went to Furnes, a town in Flanders, where Mrs. Ross had provided a lodging for his reception.

He had not been long at Furnes when he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which brought him to a degree of reflection to which he had been long a stranger. At length he sent for a father belonging to an adjacent convent, and received absolution from his hands, on declaring himself a convert to the Romish faith.

Cranstoun died on the 30th of November, 1752; and the fraternity of monks and friars looked on his conversion as an object of such importance, that solemn mass was sung on the occasion, and the body was followed to the grave not only by the ecclesiastics, but by the magistrates of the town.

His papers were then sent to Scotland, to his brother, Lord Cranstoun; his clothes were sold for the discharge of his debts; and his wife came into possession of the interest of the fifteen hundred pounds above mentioned.

## WILLIAM CHANDLER,

TRANSPORTED FOR PERJURY.

THE scheme laid by this man for the purpose of plunder had not been equalled in art and consummate hypocrisy by any of his fraternity who preceded him. His plan was to rob a whole county. In the case of every robbery committed, the hundred where it happens, or the county at large, are responsible for the amount of the loss which the injured in certain cases may sustain. In his attempt at this kind of fraud he implicated three innocent men, by whom he pretended to have been robbed, and who, had his tale ultimately

met credit, might in consequence have lost their lives. Happily this diabolical attempt was frustrated, and we are almost led to regret that the utmost vengeance of the law could not overtake him.

There is a palpable contradiction between the laws and the natural sentiments of mankind in the case of oaths which are administered to a criminal to make him speak the truth, when the contrary is his greatest interest; as if a man could think himself obliged to contribute to his own destruction; and as if, when interest speaks, religion was

not generally silent : religion, which in all ages hath, of all other things, been most commonly abused. And, indeed, upon what motive should it be respected by the wicked, when it has been thus violated by those who were esteemed the wisest of men ? The motives which religion opposes to the fear of impending evil and the love of life are too weak, as they are too distant, to make any impression on the senses. The affairs of the other world are doubtless regulated by laws entirely different from those by which human affairs are directed ; why then should you endeavour to compromise matters between them ? why should a man be reduced to the terrible alternative either of offending God or of contributing to his own immediate destruction ? The laws which require an oath in such a case leave him only the choice of becoming a bad Christian or a martyr. For this reason oaths become, by degrees, merely formal ; and all sentiments of religion (perhaps the only motives of honesty in the greatest part of mankind) are destroyed. I appeal to any judge whether he has ever known that an oath alone has brought truth from the lips of a criminal : indeed reason tells us it could not ; for all laws are useless, and, in consequence, pernicious, which contradict the natural feelings of mankind. Such laws are like a dike opposed directly to the course of a torrent : it is either immediately overwhelmed, or, by a whirlpool formed by itself, is gradually undermined and destroyed.

Chandler's offence, particularly prevalent among the inferior ranks in society, is to be attributed in no small degree to the want of proper solemnity and previous explanation on the administration of oaths. Nothing can exceed the unimpressive and careless manner which is in

practice in calling upon witnesses to make this solemn appeal to the Supreme Being. It would seem highly necessary that all oaths should be administered in the most impressive manner by the judge ; and that a form should be devised, calculated, in the greatest possible degree, to impress upon the mind of the party a high sense of the obligation he or she has come under to speak the truth.

William Chandler was the only child of Mr. Thomas Chandler, of Woodborough, near Devizes, a gentleman farmer, of two hundred pounds a year, who, at the age of about seventeen, fixed him with Mr. Banks, clerk of the goldsmiths' company ; from whom, by reason of frequent disputes, he was turned over, before two years had passed, to Mr. Hill, of Clifford's Inn, and here he gained the love of his master and the respect of his clients.

Chandler, while he was with Mr. Banks, had married the maid-servant ; but so artfully concealed it, that it was never suspected by either of his masters, nor any of his own family ; and Mr. Hill having a long contested lawsuit in hand for the father, the profits of which he made over to his son, he was enabled to keep his wife in lodgings.

Chandler's clerkship being nearly expired, he had projected a scheme to double his fortune. This scheme was to get as much money into his hands as he could possibly raise, to set out with it to the country upon some plausible pretence, swear he was robbed of it by the way, and then sue the hundred. To do this in the ordinary manner he knew was hazardous, and liable to many miscarriages ; he therefore laid his plot so deeply, that, as he thought, it should be beyond the reach of human discovery.

In the first place it was neces-



sary to raise a sum, which could not be done without deceiving both his father and master. He therefore told the former that he had an advantageous match in view; and the latter that he had a rich uncle in Suffolk, whom he pretended to visit, and to have received from him several bank bills, which he showed to favour the deceit. By these artifices he obtained from his father the possession of an estate worth about four hundred pounds, and accounted to his master for his having five hundred pounds more, which it does not appear how he acquired.

He then applied to his master to advance five hundred pounds upon his new estate, which, with his other five hundred pounds, he was going, he said, to lend to Mrs. Strait, of Salisbury, on an estate at Enford, within six or seven miles from his father's house, on which there was a prior mortgage of five hundred pounds, with interest due to one Mr. Poor, of Enford, who wanted to call in his money.

Mr. Hill, believing his clerk implicitly, even with respect to the value of his estate, procured the five hundred pounds of one Mr. Winter. While the mortgage was making Mr. Chandler went down to Mrs. Strait, and offered to pay Mr. Poor his five hundred pounds, with interest, and to advance to her five hundred pounds more on the same estate, which she readily accepted; and though it was now the 17th of March, 1748, he appointed her to meet him at Enford, on the 25th of the same month, to receive the money: he then hurried home, and immediately prepared a proper assignment for Mr. Poor's mortgage to himself, with receipts for the thousand pounds, and wrote to Mrs. Strait not to forget the day, appointing ten as the hour of meeting. Now on the 22d the mortgage of Chandler's own estate to

Winter was executed, and the money paid in three bank-notes, which Chandler the next day changed at the Bank for eight of fifty pounds, and five of twenty pounds each.

On the 24th, early, having turned most of his cash into small bills, to the amount of nine hundred pounds, he found, when he came to put these in canvass bags under his garters, where he proposed to carry them for safety, that they made too great a bundle, and therefore he took several of the small bills, with some cash, amounting to four hundred and forty pounds, and exchanged them at the bank for two notes, one of four hundred pounds, and the other of forty pounds; the first of which, in his way home, he changed in his master's name, at Sir Richard Hoare's, for one note of two hundred pounds, and two of one hundred pounds each; but told his master that the bank clerks were a little out of humour at the trouble he had already given them, and that he had changed his small notes with a stranger in the bank-hall for the notes which he, in reality, had received at Sir Richard Hoare's. Mr. Hill, at Chandler's request, having written down the numbers and dates of the several bills, and seen them safely put up, Chandler took leave of him, and about twelve o'clock set out.

About four the same afternoon he reached Hare-hatch, about thirty miles from London, where he stopped to refresh; and about five, just as he had left his inn, was, as he said, unfortunately met by three bargemen on foot, who, after they had robbed him of his watch and money, took him to a pit close by the road, and there stripped him of all his bank-notes, bound his hands and feet, and left him, threatening to return and shoot him if he made the least noise. In this woful condition he said he lay three

hours, though the pit was so near the road that not a single horse could pass without his hearing; yet when night came he could jump, bound as he was, near half a mile, all up hill, till, luckily for his purpose, he met one Avery, a simple shepherd, who cut the cords; and of whom the first question Chandler asked was, where a constable or tything man lived; upon which Avery conducted him to Richard Kelly's, the constables just by, and with him Mr. Chandler left the notices required by the statutes, with the description of the men who robbed him, so exactly, that a person present remembered three such men to have passed by his house about the very time the robbery was said to have been committed; and the mayor of Reading, who was accidentally on the road, had a similar recollection of the bargemen, whom he met near Maidenhead thicket, between four and five the same day. Chandler then returned to the inn where he had refreshed, and, after telling his deplorable tale, and acquainting his landlord with his intentions of suing the hundred, he ordered a good supper and a bowl of punch, and sat down with as little concern as if nothing had happened.

Next day he returned to London, acquainted his master with the pretended robbery, and requested his assistance.

Mr. Hill gave him the memorandum he had of the numbers, dates, and sums of the notes, and sent him to the bank to stop payment; but, instead of that, he went to Mr. Tusley, a silversmith in Cannon Street, bought a silver tankard, and in payment changed one of the notes for a hundred pounds which he had received the day before at Sir Richard Hoare's; and, on his return to his master, told him the

bank did no business that day because of the hurry the city was in on account of a fire in Cornhill, which had happened the night before: he therefore went again the following morning; and when he came back, being asked by Mr. Hill for the paper on which he had taken down the numbers, &c. he said he had left it with the clerks of the bank, who were to stop the notes, but that he had taken an exact copy of it: This was false, for he had reserved Mr. Hill's copy, and left another at the bank, in which he had so craftily altered the numbers and dates of the three notes he received at Sir Richard Hoare's, amounting to four hundred pounds, as to prevent their being stopped and Mr. Hill remembering the difference. Thus he opened a way for getting four hundred pounds into his hands without obstruction. But when it appeared that three of the notes had been falsely described, there having been none such given out by the bank, and Chandler was questioned by his master about it, and ordered to bring back the original paper, he made a pretence of going to the bank, and then brought back word that the clerks could not find it, and had said they never kept such papers after they had made an entry.

On the 26th he inserted a list of his notes, being fifteen in all, with their dates and numbers, in the daily papers, offering a reward of fifty pounds for the recovery of the whole, or in proportion for any part; and on the afternoon of the same day withdrew his advertisement in all the daily papers, and took his own written copy away at each place. And on the 29th of March, 1748, he put the notice of the robbery and the description of the robbers in the London Gazette, as the law directs, except that he

did not particularize the notes, as he had done in other papers.

On the 12th of May following he made the proper information before a justice of the peace; but though Mr. Hill, his master, was with him, and had undertaken to manage the cause for him, yet he made the same omission in his information as in his advertisement in the *London Gazette*.

All things being prepared, on the 18th of July, 1748, Chandler's cause came on at Abingdon, before a special jury; and, after a hearing of twelve hours, the jury retired for four more, and then gave the prosecutor a verdict for nine hundred and seventy pounds, subject, however, to a case reserved for the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas, concerning the sufficiency of the description of the bank-notes in the *London Gazette* and the information.

In the mean time Chandler, fearing that by what came out upon the trial he should soon be suspected, and that he might be arrested by Mr. Winter (who had now discovered that his mortgage was insufficient), obtained a protection from Lord Willoughby de Broke, and gave out that he was removed into Suffolk to reside, as he had before pretended, with his rich uncle; but in reality he retired to Colchester, where his brother-in-law, Humphry Smart, had taken an inn, with whom he entered into copartnership, and never came publicly to London afterwards. He was, however, obliged to correspond with his master, on account of the point of law which was soon to be argued; and, therefore, to come at his letters without discovering his place of abode, he ordered them to be directed 'To Mr. Thomas Chandler, at Easton, in Suffolk, to be left for him at the Crown at Audley, near Colchester.'

Mr. Hill having written several letters to Mr. Chandler, pressing him to come to town (as the Term grew near), and he evading it by trifling excuses, the former began to suspect him, even before the point of law was determined.

Just before this period twelve of the notes of which Mr. Chandler pretended to have been robbed were all brought to the bank together, having been bought, October 31, 1748, at Amsterdam, of one John Smith, by Barnard Solomon, a broker there; and by him transmitted to his son, Nathan Solomon, a broker at London. Upon further inquiry it appeared that John Smith, who sold the notes, stayed but a few days in Holland; that he was seen in company with Mr. Casson, a Holland trader, and came over in the packet with him. Mr. Casson was then found, and his description of John Smith answered to the person of Chandler, who was then pressed by letter to come to town and face Casson, to remove suspicion; but he refused.

In the interim the point of law was solemnly argued before the judges of the Common Pleas, when their determination was to the following effect:—'That, as Chandler had not inserted the numbers of his notes in the *Gazette*, nor sworn to them when he made oath before the justice, the verdict must be set aside and the plaintiff nonsuited, without the advantage of a new trial.'

And now the scene began to open apace; for about this time the very paper which Chandler left when he stopped payment of the notes at the Bank was found; which, when Mr. Hill saw, and that it was not his writing, he quite gave up his clerk, and from that time assisted in the prosecution. By means of the bank-books they traced every circumstance that has been related,



of his taking out the four hundred pound note, afterwards changing it at Sir Richard Hoare's for three lesser notes, his passing these notes and by whom received, and even his buying the tankard of Tully; which tankard was afterwards produced in evidence against him. All that now remained was to come at his person; and with this view Mr. Wise, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Casson, about Midsummer, 1749, set out for Colchester; from thence went to the Crown, at Audley; and there, inquiring for Easton, were directed first to one place, and then to another, of that name; and, after a fruitless journey of one hundred and fifty miles, they returned to the very inn then kept by Chandler at Colchester, and departed for London without gaining any intelligence.

Chandler, who himself saw them at his house, immediately left Colchester, and took a small inn at Coventry, where, though one hundred and fifty miles from the former town, and nearly ninety miles from London, he was still apprehensive of being arrested by Mr. Winter; and therefore he sent a draft to Mr. Gauntlet, a linen-draper of his

acquaintance, for one hundred and fifty pounds, to be paid to Mr. Hill, and by him to Mr. Winter. This draft he procured at Northampton, and there put it into the post. By the post-mark of this letter he was at length traced to his new habitation at Coventry, where, an indictment for perjury having been found against him, he was apprehended by a judge's warrant, and detained in gaol there, till by a habeas corpus he was removed in order to take his trial at Abingdon assizes on the 22d of July, 1750. But though the prosecutors were ready with their witnesses, at a vast expense, yet he traversed the indictment, (as by law he might,) and put off his trial to the Lent assizes held at Reading; where the facts already related being proved, he was sentenced to stand on the pillory the then next market day, and to be transported for seven years. But the former part of the sentence was changed by the judge into three months' imprisonment, for fear the populace, who were greatly enraged, should kill him.

Chandler's sentence was given on the 16th of July, 1751.\*

### PAUL TIERNEY,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

FOR some few years after the suppression of the second Scottish rebellion a secret trade of treachery was, by many disaffected villains, carried on by enlisting men for the army of the French king.

We have already adduced instances of the detection of this vile species of treason; and, though it was well known that death would soon follow conviction, yet still we

find men hardy enough to risk the consequences.

Paul Tierney was of this description. He, like Thomas Reynolds, had succeeded too well; for he deluded several soldiers from their duty to their country, and secretly conveyed them to France.

At one time, on false pretences, he inveigled eight, by keeping them in a state of intoxication. At

\* This prosecution produced two acts of parliament; one for remedying inconveniences that may happen by proceedings in actions on the Statute of Hue and Cry, and the other to render prosecutions for perjury and subornation of perjury more easy and effectual.

Calais he threw off the mask, gave them a livre each, and declared they were then soldiers to the King of France. The poor fellows, now sobered by their voyage, were so indignant at this duplicity and treachery, that with one accord they fell upon him, and in an instant would have beaten him to death, if the captain of the French guard had not rescued him.

They were now bound with ropes, carried to Dunkirk, and there thrown into a loathsome dungeon, where they long suffered on bread and water.

One of them had the good fortune to escape, and, procuring sailors' clothes, got back to England. At this time Tierney was a prisoner in Maidstone gaol, which circumstance coming to the knowledge of the much-injured man, he went thither and charged him with the crime.

On the trial it was proved that Tierney received three pounds each for the recruits, which was paid him in the presence of the prosecutor.

He was convicted, and hanged upon Pennington Heath, near Maidstone, August 30, 1751.

### JAMES WELCH AND THOMAS JONES,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WE now come to execute the painful, although, in one respect, pleasing task, already promised, of proving the innocence of that most unhappy man, Richard Coleman, who, our readers will recollect, suffered death for his supposed share in the murder of Sarah Green. Referring to our comments on his melancholy case, and to the different cautions we have given to prosecutors as to swearing to the identity of a fellow-creature, with the great care which jurymen should use in giving credit to evidence of such a nature, we proceed to relate the real circumstances attending that brutal act.

Two years had passed after Coleman had been ignominiously laid in his grave before his memory was rescued from disgrace. Circumstances then arose which proved that James Welch, Thomas Jones, and John Nichols (the latter of whom was admitted as evidence for the crown), were the parties who actually treated Sarah Green in that infamous manner which occasioned her death; and the discovery, with-

out a search (so inscrutable are the ways of Providence), was thus effected :—

Welch, one of the murderers, and a young fellow named James Bush, being walking on the road to Newington Butts, their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty; and Welch said, 'Among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones, and I, were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged.' In the course of conversation Welch owned that, having been at a public house called Sots' Hole,\* they had drank plentifully, and on their return through Kennington Lane had met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the Parsonage Walk, near the churchyard of Newington, where she was so horribly abused by Nichols and Jones that Welch declined offering her any farther insult.

Bush did not at that time appear to pay any particular attention to what he heard; but soon afterwards,

\* We cannot, in this narrative, avoid remarking on a publican adopting this name for his scene of drunkenness.

as he was crossing London Bridge with his father, he addressed him as follows: 'Father, I have been extremely ill; and, as I am afraid I shall not live long, I should be glad to discover something that lies heavily on my mind.

Hereupon they went to a public house in the Borough, where Bush related his story to his father, which was scarcely ended when, seeing Jones at the window, they called him in, and desired him to drink with them.

He had not been long in company when they told him they heard he was one of the murderers of Sarah Green, on whose account Coleman had suffered death. Jones trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said; but, soon assuming a degree of courage, said, 'What does it signify? The man is hanged, and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us.' To which he added, 'We were connected with a woman, but who can tell that was the woman Coleman died for?'

In consequence of this acknowledgment, Nichols, Jones, and Welch, were soon afterwards apprehended; when all of them steadily denied their guilt; and the hearsay testimony of Bush being all that could be adduced against them, Nichols was admitted evidence for the crown; in consequence of which all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed.

The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes for the county of Surrey, Nichols deposed that he, with Welch and Jones, having been drinking at the house called Sots' Hole on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted that house in order to return home, when, meeting with a woman, they asked her if she would drink; which she declined, unless they would go to the King's Head,

where she would treat them with a pot of beer.

Hereupon they went, and drank both beer and geneva with her; and then all the parties going forward to the Parsonage Walk, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described. It appeared that, at the time of the perpetration of the fact, the murderers wore white aprons; and that Jones and Welch called Nichols by the name of Coleman; circumstances that evidently led to the prior conviction of that unfortunate man.

On the whole state of the evidence there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death passed of course.

After conviction these malefactors behaved with the utmost contrition, being attended by the Rev. Dr. Howard, rector of St. George's, Southwark, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of Coleman's innocence; and, exclusive of this acknowledgment, Welch wrote to the brother of Coleman, confessing his guilt, and begging his prayers and forgiveness.

The sister of Jones living in the service of a genteel family at Richmond, he wrote to her to make interest in his favour; but the answer he received was, that his crime was of such a nature that she could not ask a favour for him with any degree of propriety. She earnestly begged of him to prepare for death, and implore pardon at that tribunal where alone it could be expected.

Welch and Jones underwent the sentence of the law at Kennington Common, on the 6th of September, 1751.

Our readers will not fail to ob-



serve, from the preceding melancholy narrative, that the hand of Justice, however slow, is sure; and will certainly, sooner or later, overtake the guilty. Happy, thrice happy, may

they esteem themselves, however great their sufferings in this life, who can die with a calm conscience, in the hope of eternal mercy.

### MATHIAS KEYS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THIS man was the son of an innholder of good repute at Billericay, in Essex, who placed him apprentice to a vintner, and, when his time had expired, (which, however, was not passed without censure,) placed him in a respectable inn at Bristol.

The house had long been well frequented; but Keys, presuming upon being a 'mother's darling,' was more addicted to horse-racing, cocking, and gaming, than attending to his guests. It is, therefore, little to be wondered at that such men become bankrupts; and so with him a failure soon happened.

He fled from his creditors, taking with him every portable valuable he possessed, and came to London. There, among other profligate young fellows, he became intimate with one William Russel, then an articled clerk to an attorney of good practice in Air Street, Piccadilly. In company with this reprobate he committed divers highway robberies; but the career of Russel was very short, for he was hanged ere he had attained manhood.

In the month of August, 1747, Keys was apprehended for a highway robbery; and was tried, and condemned to death, at Chelmsford; but, from no other crimes being then alleged against him, though he had committed many, his sentence was remitted, on condition of transporting himself for life.

On the 14th of November, 1747, he entered on board a man of war, on the point of sailing to the East Indies, under Admiral Boscawen,

and performed his duty with much bravery at the siege of Pondicherry, where he lost an eye. With his ship he returned to England, and immediately again commenced highwayman.

Having committed a daring robbery on two gentlemen in a post-chaise in the vicinity of London, who had pistols with them, but were taken with too much surprise to be able to use them, no sooner had he rode off with his booty, than, with the assistance of the postboy, they quickly unyoked the horses, and galloped after him.

Unapprehensive of pursuit, he was riding at a moderate pace, waiting to levy his contributions on the next traveller. They seized him, in their turn, before he could make resistance; brought him to London; and prosecuted and convicted him, having found the money upon him of which but a few minutes before he had robbed them.

Mathias Keys suffered at Kennington Common, September 6, 1751.

'When doting mothers train up booby heirs,  
Where is the cruelty can vie with theirs?

Too pert for home, too finical for school,  
Ripe for his fate, out comes the finished fool.

Headlong, where ev'ry passion leads, he runs,

To wine, to women, races, dice, and duns:  
'Then for the road he's mounted in a trice,  
And at the gallows expiates ev'ry vice.'

On the same gallows with Keys the two last-mentioned criminals suffered; also Henry Briant, for robbing Mr. William Bates in Chelsea Fields.

Briant was an Irishman, and, like Keys, had been a sailor in his majesty's service; in which capacity he had been so fortunate as to receive five hundred and sixty pounds prize-money. With this sum he took a public house in Shoreditch; which for some time he attended to with credit and profit. But, eager to accumulate money still faster, he admitted thieves of every description

into his house; and at length became the head of a daring gang, who committed robberies of every description. His character now becoming notorious, he found it necessary to give up his situation as publican, and was no less than twenty-seven times apprehended, and imprisoned in the different gaols of the metropolis, before justice overtook him.



*A Tradesman's Wife surprised by meeting her Husband instead of De la Fontaine.*

### CAPTAIN PETER DE LA FONTAINE, CONVICTED OF FORGERY.

THE following short sketch of this artful and daring foreigner would furnish incident for a novel or a romance.

De la Fontaine was born of noble parents in France, received a military education, and served at the siege of Phillipsburgh, under the Duke of Berwick.

The campaign being ended, he

went to Paris, where a gentleman invited him to spend some time at his country seat, when he fell in love with his daughter, who wished to marry him; but the father interposing, she eloped with her lover, and they lived a considerable time, as married people, at Rouen.

On their return to Paris the young lady lodged in a convent;

but De la Fontaine appearing in public, some officers of justice, seeing him in a coffee-house, told him they had the king's warrant for apprehending him: on which he wounded two of them with his sword; notwithstanding which he was seized, and lodged in prison.

On this he wrote to the young lady, telling her he was obliged to go into the country on urgent business, but would soon return; and, having made an interest with the daughter of the keeper of the prison, she let him out occasionally, to visit his mistress.

Being brought to trial for running away with an heiress, he would have been capitally convicted, agreeable to the laws of France, but that the young lady voluntarily swore that she went off with him by her own consent. Soon after his acquittal she was seized with the pains of labour, and died in child-bed.

After this De la Fontaine went again into the army, and behaved so bravely at the battle near Kale, that the Duke of Berwick rewarded his courage with the commission of lieutenant of grenadiers.

A young lady of Stratzburgh, who had fallen in love with De la Fontaine, at Paris, before his former connexion, now obtained a pass from the Marshal de Belleisle, and, being introduced to the Duke of Berwick, told him she wished to see De la Fontaine; and the duke, judging of the cause, ordered her to be conducted to him.

On the following day she went to the duke, dressed in men's clothes, and, begging to enter as a volunteer in the same regiment with De la Fontaine, she was indulged for the novelty of the humour. She went through the regular duties of a soldier, and reposed in the same tent with her paramour; but, in the winter following the campaign,

she died of the small-pox, leaving a part of her fortune to her lover.

The Duke of Berwick being killed at the siege of Phillipsburgh, De la Fontaine made the tour of Europe; but, returning to Paris, he fought a duel with an officer, who being dangerously wounded, our hero repaired to Brest, and embarked as lieutenant of marines on board a vessel bound for Martinico.

The ship, being taken by a Turkish corsair, was carried into Constantinople, where De la Fontaine was confined in a dungeon, and had only bread and water for his sustenance. While in this situation he was visited by another prisoner, who had more liberty than himself, and who advised him, as the French consul was then absent, to apply to a Scotch nobleman then in the city, who was distinguished for his humane and generous feelings.

De la Fontaine, having procured pen, ink, and paper, with a tinder-box to strike a light (all by the friendship of his fellow-prisoner), sent a letter to the nobleman, who had no sooner read it than he hurried to the cells, to visit the unfortunate prisoner.

Having promised his interest to procure his enlargement, he went to the grand vizier, and pleaded his cause so effectually, that De la Fontaine was released, and went immediately to thank the vizier, who wished him happy, and presented him with a sum of money.

Hence our adventurer sailed to Amsterdam, where, having a criminal connexion with a lady, who became pregnant, he embarked for the Dutch settlement of Curaçoa; but, finding the place unhealthy, he obtained the governor's permission to go to Surinam, and continued above five years on that island.

While in this place the governor



invited him to a ball, where one of the company was a widow lady of rank, of whom he determined, if possible, to make a conquest; nor did he long fail of an opportunity, for, dining with her at the governor's house, they soon became very intimately acquainted.

The consequence of their sociability was a residence as husband and wife; and four children were the fruits of the connexion, three of whom died; but the other, a boy, was educated by the governor of the island.

Other officers having addressed the same lady, De la Fontaine was occasionally involved in difficulties on her account.

One of these officers having introduced him in his absence, our hero, on meeting him, bid him draw his sword; but the other refused, on which De la Fontaine struck him with his cane, and cut off one of his ears.

On this our adventurer was seized, and tried by a court-martial, but acquitted; and the officer degraded, on account of the provocation he had given; and from this time De la Fontaine was treated with unusual marks of civility.

He still lived on the best terms with the lady, and their affection appeared to be reciprocal.

The governor bestowed on him a considerable tract of land, which he cultivated to great advantage; but the malice of his enemies was so restless, that they prevailed on one of his negro servants to mix a dose of poison in his food.

Unsuspicious of any villainy, he swallowed the poison, the consequence of which was, that he languished several months: and the lady, affected by his situation, gave way to melancholy, which brought on a consumption, that deprived her of life.

After her death De la Fontaine obtained the governor's permission to return to Europe, and lived for some time in a splendid manner at Amsterdam; but at length determined to embark for England.

Having arrived in London, he took elegant lodgings, lived in the style of a gentleman, and made several gay connexions.

Among his acquaintance was Zannier, a Venetian, who had been obliged to quit his own country on account of his irregularities. This man possessed such an artful address, that De la Fontaine made him at all times welcome to his table, and admitted him to a considerable share of his confidence.

Zannier soon improved this advantage; for, contriving a scheme with an attorney and bailiff, he pretended to have been arrested for three hundred pounds, and prevailed on his new friend to bail him, on the assurance that he had a good estate in Ireland, and would pay the money before the return of the writ; but, when the term arrived, our hero was compelled to discharge the debt, as Zannier did not appear.

Hitherto De la Fontaine had been in London without making any connexion with the ladies; but, there being a procession of free-masons at that time, he dressed himself in the most superb taste, and, his chariot being the most elegant of any in the procession, he was particularly noticed by the spectators.

Among the rest, the daughter of an alderman had her curiosity so much excited, that she caused inquiry to be made who he was; and on the following day sent him a letter, intimating that she should be at a ball at Richmond, where he might have an opportunity of dancing with her.

Our hero did not hesitate to comply; and, when the ball was ended, he received an invitation to dine with the young lady on the following day, at her father's house. He attended accordingly; but the father, having learnt his character, insisted that he should decline his visits, which put an end to all his hopes from that quarter.

The circumstances of our hero being greatly reduced, he resolved, if possible, to repair them by marriage, and was soon afterwards wedded to a widow of considerable fortune; but his taste for extravagance rendered this fortune unequal to his support; nor was his conduct to his wife by any means generous.

Soon after his marriage he was at the lord mayor's ball, where he made an acquaintance with the wife of a tradesman, which ended in a criminal connexion.

The parties frequently met at taverns and bagnios; and De la Fontaine having written to the lady, appointing her to meet him at a tavern, the letter fell into the hands of her husband, who communicated the contents to her brother, and the letter was sealed up, and delivered according to its address.

The brothers agreed to go to the tavern, where they told the waiter to show any lady to them who might inquire for De la Fontaine.

In a short time the lady came, and was astonished to be introduced to her brother and husband; but the latter was so affected, that he promised a full remission of all that was passed, on her promise of future fidelity. These generous terms she rejected with contempt, and immediately left the room.

De la Fontaine, being acquainted with this circumstance, was impressed with a sense of the husband's generous behaviour, and ad-

vised the lady to return to her duty. At first she insulted him for his advice, but at length thought proper to comply with it.

Our hero now saw his own conduct in an unfavorable light; on which he went into the country with his wife for some time, to avoid his old associates, and then returned to London, determined to abandon his former course of life.

Unfortunately, however, he had not long formed this resolution, when Zannier went to him, begging his forgiveness for obliging him to pay the debt. De la Fontaine too easily complied with his request, and once more considered him as a friend.

Zannier and De la Fontaine, going to a tavern, met with a woman whom the latter had formerly known, and a man who was dressed in black. While De la Fontaine was conversing with the woman, the stranger (who afterwards appeared to be a Fleet parson) read the marriage-ceremony from a book which he held in his hand; and the next week De la Fontaine was apprehended on a charge of bigamy, and committed for trial at the Old Bailey.

The villain Zannier visiting him in Newgate, De la Fontaine was so enraged at his perfidy, that he beat him through the press-yard with a broomstick with such severity, that the turnkey was obliged to interpose to prevent murder.

In revenge of this, Zannier swore that De la Fontaine had been guilty of forgery, in imitating the handwriting of a gentleman named Parry: in consequence of which De la Fontaine was brought to his trial, and capitally convicted, though a gentleman swore that the writing resembled that of Zannier, and there was too much reason to believe that his hand committed the forgery.

Yet the jury found De la Fontaine guilty; the Court sentenced him to death, and the day was appointed for his execution. He was, however, respited, and this was from time to time continued, during five years, when he was pardoned on condition of transportation.

In September, 1752, with many other convicts, he was shipped to the English colony of Virginia, in America.

The villainy of Zannier, and the consequence of dissipation in the life of De la Fontaine, are the circumstances proper for remark on

this occasion. The man who, like the former, could abuse the confidence of a trusting friend, is unworthy of all pity, and deserving only of general detestation.

It is to be lamented that the forgery could not have been fixed on Zannier, in which case he would probably have met with the due reward of his villainy. With regard to De la Fontaine, we see that a life of dissipation ends only in disgrace, if not in absolute destruction. The fate of this man should teach us that the plain path of virtue and religion can alone be the high road to happiness.

### SAMUEL HILL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

This malefactor was a native of Bucketidge, in Staffordshire, received a decent education, was apprenticed to a shoemaker, and served his time with fidelity.

At the expiration of his servitude he came to London, and worked as a journeyman till he had saved about ten pounds; and this instance of his industry and frugality coming to the knowledge of his aunt, who lived at Hawkehurst, in Kent, she bequeathed him fifty pounds by her will.

On the death of the aunt he received the money, married, and commenced business as a master in Kent, where he unfortunately got connected with some smugglers, who dealt with him for shoes, for which they paid him in smuggled articles.

This connexion was very pernicious to Hill; for a party of dragoons attacking the smugglers, and Hill taking part with the latter, he was desperately wounded. In the end the smugglers were victorious; but Hill, being wounded, was obliged to get on board a cutter,

which carried him to France, where he put himself under the care of a surgeon, and was perfectly cured.

When restored to health he returned to England with a quantity of contraband goods; but the custom-house officers soon afterwards attacked him and another smuggler, and took them into custody. They continued seven months in prison; and were then released by an order from the Exchequer.

Hill and his associates now bought a quantity of prohibited goods, and proceeded towards London to sell them; but, being attacked by several custom-house officers on the Deptford road, an engagement ensued, in which one of the officers was wounded in the leg, and the smugglers got off, and sold their goods in London.

Not long after this the smugglers paid an officer a sum of money to connive at their proceedings; instead of which he laid an information against them; whereupon they pulled down his house, to testify their revenge. Thence they went to Sandwich, and at-



tempted to land some run goods; but a party of dragoons attacking them, one of the smugglers was killed on the spot, on which the rest galloped off with the utmost precipitation.

Not long after this affair the officers made an attack on the smugglers near Bromley, when one of the latter was wounded, and three horses were killed belonging to the opposite party. The smugglers now vowed revenge against the custom-house officers, one of whom they seized, and, conveying him to the house of Hill, treated him, for ten successive days, with the utmost barbarity.

At length they consulted whether they should murder the unhappy man; but, some of them advising that he should be sent to France, he was conveyed to the sea-side, and proposals made to take him on board a cutter: but the master of the vessel, having been formerly punished for receiving a person on board in a similar situation, refused to accept him, unless he would declare that it was his free will to go; and this declaration not being made, the smugglers beat him severely, and then permitted him to depart.

Soon after this transaction Hill grew tired of his connexion with the smugglers, and retired to the practice of his own business; a circumstance that exasperated his late associates to such a degree, that they robbed his house of effects to a considerable amount, and a hundred and fifty pounds in cash.

Distressed by this circumstance, and apprehensive of farther consequences, Hill determined not to remain longer in the country, and therefore wrote a letter to his sister in London, who took a house for him, whither he removed, and soon afterwards buried three children, who had died of the small-pox.

Hill went to visit a smuggler who was confined in Newgate, but had formed a design of effecting his escape, which he communicated to Hill, and offered him a hundred pounds to assist him in putting it into execution. The proposal was, that some other smugglers should come to Newgate, with offensive weapons hid under their clothes, and, having seized the keepers, should set the prisoners at liberty. Hill endeavored to engage the smugglers to take a part in this affair; but they were too cautious to embark in so hazardous an undertaking.

Hill, however, was daring enough to afford assistance to the prisoner, who effected his escape, but was not generous enough to give even a single shilling to his agent. After this Hill was promised a sum of money to assist another smuggler in making his escape from Newgate; in consequence of which he did all in his power to forward the plan, but never obtained the least gratuity for his trouble.

Hill's wife dying about this time, he seemed to decline all farther thought of acquiring money in a dishonest way; and, boarding in the house of a widow woman at Poplar, obtained his living by working as a journeyman at his own business: but at length he became in debt to his landlady, who seized a new suit of clothes for what he owed her.

Exasperated by this circumstance, Hill, on the following morning, attempted to wrest the keys of the house from the woman's hands: but, on her making resistance, he seized a rope that lay by him, with which he strangled her so that she expired immediately. This being done, he robbed the house, and put the stolen effects on board a boat, which went down the river: but,

being pursued, he was soon taken, and carried before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; after which he submitted with the utmost patience to his fate, confessing that he was highly deserving of the ignominy that his complicated crimes had brought on him.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 23d of March, 1752, after cautioning the surrounding multitude to take warning by his fate.

A few words only will be necessary by way of remark on the case and fate of this malefactor. His unhappy connexion with the smugglers seems to have hardened his mind, so as to have rendered him capable of the commission of any crime—even of the greatest.

From his unhappy end, then, we ought to learn to be cautious how we violate the laws of honesty in the smallest degree, since such violation too often leads to the perpetration of the most enormous offences.

### JOHN ANDREWS,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

This offender was born in Essex, and, having commenced grazier, sent a number of cattle to Smithfield market; but, after a series of trade in this way, he sailed to the East Indies, where he acquired a sufficient sum to enable him to deal in seamen's tickets on his return to England.

This business, sufficiently oppressive to the poor sailors, he carried to the height of extortion, and frequently obtained of them fifty per cent. on the advancing money on their tickets. After thus lending money for some time, he adventured on the dangerous practice of forging the wills of seamen, in order to defraud their widows; and met with a narrow escape at Maidstone, on a charge of publishing a forged letter of attorney.

Andrews employed some women of his acquaintance in London, to whom he used to give small gratuities to personate the widows of seamen; and by their perjuries he frequently acquired considerable sums of money.

This mode of practice at length brought him to destruction, as will

appear from the following narrative. Quarreling with a woman named Elizabeth Nicholls, with whom he was connected, blows ensued, and the woman determined to be revenged, but disguised her sentiments till she had an opportunity of injuring him in the most essential manner.

He applied to her on a particular occasion to personate the widow of a seaman to whom thirty pounds were due, and to swear that she had a will in her favour. The woman, with a view first to make an advantage of Andrews, and then to betray him, did as she was directed, and signed her name to a forged will in Doctors' Commons, in consequence of which Andrews received thirty pounds at the Navy-office, and became possessed of the seaman's ticket for fourteen pounds.

This ticket he offered for sale to a man who kept an alehouse in Oxford Road; but the latter refused to buy it, unless the woman would sign the receipt for it, which she readily did, expecting Andrews would give her a good part of the money thus illegally obtained; but,

on his refusal to give her more than half a guinea, she determined on immediate revenge.

To carry her scheme into effectual execution, she went to another woman with whom Andrews was connected; and, both of them having given information against him, he was taken into custody, and lodged in Newgate.

As it was presumed that his offences had been numerous, the following scheme was adopted to find full evidence of his guilt. The lord mayor commissioned a person who had formerly known him to go to Newgate, and hint to him that a warrant would be issued to search his lodgings. Andrews, having papers which he thought it of great consequence to conceal, desired his supposed friend to pack them in a basket, and leave them with an acquaintance in the Minories.

Hereupon the prisoner gave the man his keys, and he went and packed up the goods, and carried them as directed. This was done to discover, if possible, whether Andrews had any accomplices; that, if he had, his guilt might be the more clearly ascertained by procuring strong evidence against him.

When the papers were deposited in the Minories, the lord mayor issued a search warrant, in consequence of which his officers found sixty-four forged wills and powers of attorney; but no proof arose that he had any accomplices, except the women whom he had employed as his agents.

One of these women, however, deposed that she had received above five hundred pounds for him, by swearing to forged wills; but that half a guinea for each perjury was all the gratification she received.

Andrews, who was in possession of a considerable sum of money when he was committed to New-

gate, had no idea that sufficient evidence could be adduced of his guilt; but, when he was brought to trial, the testimony of the two women was so positive against him, that the jury did not hesitate to convict him, and sentence of death passed of course.

His behaviour after conviction was remarkably morose, reserved, and untractable. He absolutely refused the good offices of the Ordinary of Newgate, which at first caused a suspicion that he was a Roman Catholic; but, as he was not visited by any priests of that persuasion, this suspicion wore off, and his refusal was attributed to the obstinacy and gloom of his own mind.

He refused to acknowledge the justice of the sentence by which he was condemned; alleging, in excuse for his conduct, that, having lost large sums of money by some seamen, he was justified in endeavoring to make others pay the deficiency.

He seemed agitated in the highest degree when he was put into the cart on the morning of execution. His whole frame was convulsed; and, when at the fatal tree, despair seemed to have taken possession of his soul. He only said a short prayer, but refused to address the surrounding multitude.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 23d of March, 1752.

The crimes of this man were of the greatest magnitude, a continued series of fraud and robbery, supported by the perjuries of ignorant creatures whom he employed: and it is hardly a breach of charity to say that he was equally guilty of those perjuries with the poor wretches who actually committed them: perhaps more so, as his knowledge must be supposed to have been superior to theirs.



If the crime of forgery was less enormous than it is, one would think the excess of danger attending it would prevent any man from being guilty of it. Fatal experience, nevertheless, too frequently proves the contrary.

Let us hope, however, that the fatal examples of the many unhappy victims to the rigid (and in this case necessary) justice of their country will have a good effect in future; and that this crime may decrease in proportion as, for some years past, it has unhappily increased, to the injury of many an individual, and

the utter ruin of many a worthy family.

It is dreadful to reflect on the vast numbers who have become widows and orphans through the horrid prevalence of this practice; which, as it is generally committed by persons in a rank of life above the vulgar, it is to be hoped those who may be tempted to the commission of it will have sense and virtue enough to make the proper use of these admonitions, and to consult their own safety, while they have a due regard not to infringe on the property of their neighbours.

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### ANTHONY DE ROSA, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS malefactor was the son of an Englishman of Portuguese extraction; but his father, going abroad, settled in one of the Bermuda Islands, where he married a Portuguese woman, and Anthony was the first child of that marriage.

His father, being at different times master of several vessels which traded up the Mediterranean, brought his son up as a seaman, and he continued with him till the old gentleman's death; but, when that event happened, he engaged himself as mate in another vessel, in which station he remained about two years.

The vessel putting into the port of Lisbon, De Rosa embarked on board an English man of war bound to Ireland, and afterwards to this kingdom. When the ship's crew were paid off he quitted the naval service, lived in an idle manner, and supported himself some time by forging scamen's wills and powers. After this he became acquainted with Emanuel De Rosa, and one Fullagar, with whom he combined in the commission of robberies.

On the 11th of June, 1751, Mr. William Farques, a young gentle-

man who lived in London, went to dine with his uncle, who kept an academy at Hoxton; and, having staid to supper, left the house about a quarter after ten o'clock, on his return to town.

Between eleven and twelve o'clock on the night the murder was committed, Mr. Hendrop, of Hoxton, was going home to his house, when, seeing two men standing by a person lying on the ground, he asked what was the matter; to which one of them replied, 'I believe there is a gentleman murdered.' Mr. Hendrop took hold of his hand, and found it warm. He then lifted up the body of the wounded man, who seemed to attempt to speak, but was unable. He then observed that the body was bloody, and felt some blood withinside the clothes; on which he went to a public house in the neighborhood, where, meeting some men who had a lantern, he returned with them to the spot; but the party was then dead, though by the clothes it was known to be Mr. William Farques; on which the body was carried to the house of his uncle.

The coroner took an inquisition on this occasion, when the verdict of the jury was 'Wilful murder by persons unknown.' We have mentioned that this affair happened on the night of the 11th of June; but a discovery of the perpetrators of it did not arise till above six months afterwards.

On the 26th of December Emanuel De Rosa was apprehended as a disorderly person, and lodged in Bridewell, where the terrors of his conscience on the reflection of the murder were so great, that he determined to make a discovery of the affair, at once to ease his mind, and preserve his life by becoming an evidence for the crown.

Having informed the keeper of Bridewell of his intention, he then sent to Anthony De Rosa to come and see him; on which he was taken into custody, having in his pocket a knife with which he had stabbed the deceased.

Emanuel De Rosa, having given in his deposition before a magistrate, was admitted an evidence; and, when the trial came on at the Old Bailey, he swore to the following particulars:—

That he had been acquainted with the prisoner about three years, and had been concerned with him in forgery, and defrauding people of money; that the prisoner came to his lodgings, near the Maypole, in East Smithfield, about nine o'clock on the night the robbery was committed; that they went together to the Minories, where they found Fullagar; when all three of them went down Houndsditch, into Moorfields, towards the Barking Dogs,\* where many people were then walking. The prisoner said he wanted money that night, and bade them come along, and not be afraid of

any thing. They walked backwards and forwards for some time, thinking it was too soon to attack any body, as the clock had not then struck ten.

The prisoner soon afterwards said 'Let us cross over that road,' meaning by the Barking Dogs; and the gentleman who was murdered was coming alone in the middle of the path, when the prisoner asked him for his money. Mr. Farques said, 'Gentlemen, I have no money for myself.' Upon this Fullagar gave him two or three blows on the head with a stick, which had a piece of iron on its head. Hereupon the gentleman turned round, on which Fullagar struck him on the back of the head; but, as he did not fall, Anthony De Rosa bade the evidence hold his arm, which he did, and the other drew a knife, and stabbed him five or six times in the breast and body, as fast as he could repeat the blows; and Fullagar at the same time striking him near the ear, he fell against the pales. The prisoner and Fullagar now searched his pockets, and the former produced eleven shillings only.

The murderers now went together to the Nag's Head, on Tower Hill, and drank two pots of beer; and there the evidence received two shillings as his share of the plunder. About ten o'clock the next morning the prisoner called on the evidence, and bade him take care of himself, for that he and Fullagar were going down to Chatham.

The reader is already apprized of the circumstance which led to the apprehension of Anthony De Rosa, on whose trial the knife with which he had stabbed Mr. Farques was produced; yet he steadily denied having any concern in the wicked

\* This murder was committed within a few yards of a public house called the Barking Dogs, opposite the late Mr. Whitefield's tabernacle.

transaction, and attempted to set up a defence, by endeavoring to prove an alibi: for Dorothy Black and her son swore that on the 11th of June the prisoner had a cold; and the woman added that she gave him a sweat, and that he was not out of her house one minute during the whole day and night; and this latter circumstance was likewise sworn to by the son.

No credit, however, was given to the testimony of these evidences; the jury found the prisoner guilty, and the Court directed that Dorothy Black and her son should be taken into custody, to be tried for perjury.

At the time of trial the prisoner was exceedingly debilitated by illness; but, being considerably recovered in about ten days, he was advised to make a full confession of the barbarous fact for which his life was so soon to pay the forfeit, and to consider the consequence of dying in the solemn attestation of a falsehood.

In reply to this serious exhortation he said 'I am as innocent as the child unborn; and, being further urged on the subject, he exclaimed 'Would you have me own myself guilty of what I know no more of than you do? I know, if I be guilty and deny it, I must send my soul to the bottom of hell, which I hope I know better than to do.'

He was equally obstinate at the place of execution in denying the fact for which he suffered, solemnly declaring to the last that he knew nothing of the matter.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 23d of March, 1752.

The horrid nature and unprovokedness of the crime which cost this man his life is almost without example. To the honour of this country be it remarked, that the instances of murder in consequence of robbery are fewer with us than in most of the other kingdoms of Europe; and we hope they will be fewer than they have been.

The source of De Rosa's misfortunes appears to have been idleness; for, if he had followed the lawful calling in which he was brought up, he might have lived happy in himself, and been an useful member of society: instead of which he was cut off in the prime of life, (for he was only twenty-eight years of age when he suffered,) and became an object of public contempt and abhorrence.

Of all things, then, let youth avoid idleness: let them consider that industry is the road to riches and honour; let them remember and apply the words of the poet:—

'In works of labour or of skill,  
I would be busy too;  
For Satan finds some mischief still  
For idle hands to do.'

## CAPTAIN JAMES LOWRY,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

It is not the knowledge of navigation alone that qualifies a man to have command of a ship. When life and property are committed to the absolute control of a single individual, he to whom such trust is given should also possess feeling and humanity; qualities of which Lowry appears to have been entirely divested.

Captain James Lowry was born in Scotland, and, after receiving a good school education, was, at his own earnest request, bound apprentice to a master of a vessel, to whom he served the time faithfully; and from his good conduct soon himself became master of a ship.

He had just returned from Jamaica, with the charge of a West-



India trader, when, about the middle of the month of June, 1751, appeared in the daily papers a remarkable advertisement, with ten signatures thereto, offering a reward of ten guineas for apprehending James Lowry, late master of the *Molly*, a merchant-ship recently arrived from Jamaica, who was charged by ten of his crew with the cruel murder of Kenith Hossack, foremast-man, in his passage home, on the 24th of December last, by ordering his two wrists to be tied to the main shrouds, and then whipping him till he expired.

To this Captain Lowry replied by charging his crew with depriving him of his command of the said ship on the 29th of the said month, and carrying her into Lisbon, where the British consul reinstated him in his command, and sent the ten subscribing men home prisoners; and that he was ready to surrender when a court should be appointed for his trial, nothing indeed preventing his doing so immediately but the thoughts of lying in gaol under the detestable name of a murderer.

The crew rejoined, in another advertisement, that Lowry did not only murder the said Hossack, as appears by the affidavits of the ten subscribers, sworn before John Russell, Esq. the British consul at Lisbon, to be by him transmitted to the Lords of the Admiralty; but in the said passage did use Peter Bright and John Grace so cruelly that they died; and, still continuing his barbarity to every man in the ship, broke the jaw-bone and one of the fingers of William Dwight, and fractured the skull of William Waum.

They admitted that they (the subscribers) had been sent from Lisbon to England by the said British consul; but this was done in consequence of a pretended charge of piracy sworn against them by Low-

ry, as the only means he had to screen himself from justice; for the sake of which, and to deter other masters of ships from exercising the like barbarities at sea, they repeated their reward, which they deposited in proper hands for apprehending the murderer.

These advertisements naturally excited public curiosity, and Lowry was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Admiralty Sessions at the Old Bailey, on the 18th of February, 1752, for the wilful murder of Kenith Hossack.

James Gatherah, mate of the vessel, deposed that they left Jamaica on the 28th of October, 1750, having on board fourteen hands; that on the 24th of December he came on deck between four and five in the afternoon, and saw the deceased tied up, one arm to the haulyards, and the other to the main shrouds, when the prisoner was beating him with a rope about an inch and a half in thickness. This deponent returning again in half an hour, the deceased begged to be let down on a call of nature. The captain being now below, Gatherah obtained his permission to release him for the present, but was to tie him up again; but, when let down, he was unable to stand; which being made known to Lowry, he said, 'Damn the rascal, he shams Abraham;' and ordered him again to be tied up. This was done, but he was not made so fast as before, which the captain observing, he ordered his arms to be extended to the full stretch, and, taking the rope, beat him on the back, breast, head, shoulders, face, and temples, for about half an hour, occasionally walking about to take breath.

About six o'clock he hung back his head, and appeared motionless; on which Lowry ordered him to be cut down, and said to Gatherah

'I am afraid Kenny is dead.' Gatherah replied 'I am sorry for it, but hope not.' Gatherah then felt his pulse; but finding no motion there, or at his heart, said, 'I am afraid he is dead, indeed;' on which the captain gave the deceased a slap on the face, and exclaimed 'Damn him, he is only shamming Abraham now.'

On this the deceased was wrapped up in a sail, and carried to the steerage, where Lowry whetted a penknife, and Gatherah attempted to bleed him, but without effect.

Gatherah deposed, further, that the deceased had been ill of a fever, but was then recovering, and, though not well enough to go aloft, was able to do many parts of his duty.

Gatherah likewise deposed to the tyranny and cruelty of the captain to the whole ship's company, except one James Stuart; and gave several instances of his inhumanity, particularly that of his beating them with a stick which he called 'The Royal Oak's foremast.'

It was asked of Gatherah why Lowry was not confined till the 29th of December, as the murder of Hossack took place on the 24th: to which he answered that the ship's crew had been uneasy, and proposed to confine the captain; but that he (Gatherah) represented the leaky condition of the ship, which made it necessary that two pumps should be kept going night and day; and the ship's crew were so sickly, that not a hand could be conveniently spared: that he believed the captain would be warned by what he had done, and treat the rest of the crew better during the remainder of the voyage; that Lowry could not escape from the ship; and that, on their arrival in England, he might be charged

with the murder before any magistrate.

The seamen were satisfied by these arguments; but, Lowry continuing his severities, it was determined to deprive him of his command, and confine him to the cabin. At length the ship became so leaky, that they did not expect to live from night till morning; and the men quitted the pumps, and took a solemn farewell of each other: but Gatherah advised them to renew their endeavours to save the vessel, and to steer for the port of Lisbon.

This advice was followed; and, having arrived off the rock of Lisbon, they hoisted a signal for a pilot, and one coming off in a fishing-boat, found that they had no product,\* on which he declined conducting them into port; but by this pilot the captain sent a letter to the British consul, informing him that the crew had mutinied; on which the consul came on board, put ten of the seamen under arrest, and sent them to England on board a man of war, then bound homewards.

The statement made by Gatherah to the consul corresponded with that given by him in evidence at the Old Bailey. During the voyage the crew of Lowry's ship worked their passage; and, on their arrival in England, though they were committed to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison, they had liberty to go out when they pleased, and considered themselves only as evidences against Lowry.

The rest of the crew, who were examined on the trial, gave testimony corresponding with that of Gatherah; and declared that the deceased was sober and honest. Some questions were asked, if they thought Lowry's ill treatment was

\* That is, they had no effects to dispose of.

the occasion of Hossack's death. They replied there was no doubt of it; 'it would have killed him had he been in good health and strength, or the stoutest man living.'

It may be proper to mention that Lowry, having taken men on board to work his ship to England, arrived soon after his accusers; but they having given previous information to the lords of the admiralty, a reward was offered for apprehending him: he remained some time concealed; but at length he was discovered by a thief-taker, who took him into custody, and received ten guineas from the marshal of the admiralty.

By way of defence Lowry addressed himself to the Court in the following terms:—

'My lord, and gentlemen of the jury, my case is exceedingly hard; the witnesses that have been produced against me have agreed to swear this murder upon me, well knowing that, if they do not take away my life, their own will be in danger, as I hope to make appear. In October, 1750, I set sail from Jamaica in the Molly, of which I was commander, with thirteen hands, besides myself, on board: we were bound for London. I had not been long at sea ere I found that I had got a set of the most wicked, drunken, idle fellows that ever came into a ship. I had great apprehensions that they intended to run away with the ship; and so I told Captain Dalton, of the Naney, who came from Jamaica with me, and begged he would keep me company, and observe what course we kept. This the witness Gatherah knew, if he would have been honest and spoke the truth; but he has sworn with a halter about his neck. Often, when I awaked, I found they had altered the ship's course while I was

asleep; and Gatherah, who was my chief mate, often insulted me, and used me so very ill, that I was obliged to turn him out of my mess, and forbid him my cabin. Roberts, my second mate, having rum, he would sell it to the men, notwithstanding I forbid him often, by which means they were scarcely ever sober. Our ship being leaky, we were obliged to keep continually pumping; and some of the men being sick, occasioned by their drinking so much rum, I could not but be very angry with Roberts for continuing to supply the men with liquor.

'On the 23d day of December, though the witnesses swear the 24th, one of the men had lost a bottle of rum, and I was informed the deceased had taken and drunk it; at the same time William Waum came to me, and complained he had lost a note, and believed that Kenith Hossack had stole it (though he denies he said it now); upon which I called the deceased upon deck, to examine him, and found he was so drunk he was scarcely able to stand; therefore I ordered him to be tied to the rails of the ship till he was sober; for if he had gone down to his cabin he would have got more rum, and so endangered his life, he having been sick with drinking before. The deceased being a comical fellow, I took a bit of rope, and flourished it three times round, gave him a stroke or two upon the breech, not so hard as to hurt him, more than I do this book (striking his hand gently on the log-book that lay on the bar): after he had been tied some time to the rails, he fell backwards, and foamed at the mouth: I then cut him loose, and he fell down, and I believe his being intoxicated, and struggling to get loose, might suffocate him. I did all I could to recover



him, as the witnesses against me have allowed. I was not then charged with murdering the deceased; nor did I hear any thing of such a charge till five or six days after Hosack's death, when they deprived me of the command, confined me, seized the ship, altered her course, which was for England, and carried her to Lisbon. I had prepared a letter to send ashore, by the first boat that came on board, to the English consul, informing him of the situation I was in; who came on board, examined us all, and reinstated me in the command of the ship, which I brought home safe to England. The witnesses were sent home prisoners on board a man of war, upon my accusation of mutiny and piracy. It cannot be supposed the consul would have trusted me with the command of the ship, if I had been under the charge of murder.'

After the evidence was recapitulated by the judge, the jury retired for about half an hour, and then delivered their verdict, that the prisoner was guilty; on which he received sentence of death, and orders were given for his being hung in chains.

After conviction Lowry behaved with great apparent courage and resolution till a smith came to take measure of him for his chains; when he fainted away, fell on his bed, and was measured while insensible. On his recovery, he said that it was the disgrace of a public exposure that had affected him, and not the fear of death.

On the 25th of March, at half past nine in the morning, the unfortunate convict was brought out of Newgate, to undergo the sentence of the law. On seeing the cart which was to convey him to the gallows he became pale, but soon recovered a degree of serenity of countenance. He had on a scarlet cloak over a morning gown, and a brown wig of the colour of his eyebrows. His eyes were very bright and piercing, his features regular and agreeable, and by no means evincing the cruelty of his disposition. He was five feet seven inches in stature, well proportioned, and about forty years of age. His behaviour was quite composed and undaunted. Before the cart was carried a silver oar of a very antique form.

The dreadful procession had not moved many yards before the populace began to express their indignation at the culprit. Some sailors cried out 'Where is your Royal Oak's foremast?' others vociferated 'He is shamming Abraham!' and with such tauntings and revilings was he drawn to Execution Dock; near which a number of sailors being collected, they poured execrations on his devoted head.

He was then taken out of the cart and placed upon a scaffold under the gallows, where he put on a white cap. He prayed very devoutly with the Ordinary of Newgate about a quarter of an hour: then, giving the executioner his money and watch, the platform fell.

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### — M'CANNELLY AND — MORGAN,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

As the time of harvest approaches numbers of the lowest order of Irish come over to the nearest counties in England, to offer themselves for hire, in getting in the hay and

crops of corn, where they receive better wages, and live better, than in their own country. They would prove of infinite service, could they be kept to common honesty, but

they are generally a wild, ferocious, and knavish set, and mix among the industrious and honest, for the purpose of plundering their employers.

The numerous depredations committed during the gathering of the harvest, more than at other seasons, leave little doubt of this fact; and farmers are therefore become extremely cautious whom they hire.

Mr. Porter, a wealthy farmer of Cheshire, had engaged a number of these people, in the year 1751, in his harvest-fields. One evening his house was beset by the gang above mentioned, who forcibly broke open his doors, advanced to him while at his supper-table, seized, and bound him with cords, at the same time with horrid threats demanding his money.

They also seized his eldest daughter, pinioned her, and obliged her to show them where her father's money and plate were deposited. In the confusion, the youngest daughter, an heroic little girl of thirteen years of age, made her escape, ran into the stable, got astride the bare back of a horse, only haltered; but, not daring to ride past the house, beset by the rogues, she galloped over the fields, leaping hedges and ditches, to Pulford, to inform her eldest brother of the danger they were in at the village. He, and a friend named Craven, determined on attacking the villains, and for that purpose set off at full speed, the little girl accompanying them.

On entering his paternal roof, the son found one of the villains on guard, whom he killed so instantaneously that it caused no alarm. Proceeding to the parlour, they found the other four in the very act of setting his father on the fire, after robbing him of fourteen guineas, in order to extort more. They had stripped down his breeches to his

feet, and his eldest daughter was on her knees, supplicating for his life.

What a sight was this for a son! Like an enraged lion, and backed by his brave friend, he flew upon the villains, who fired two pistols, and wounded both the father and the son, and a servant-boy whom they had also bound, but not so as to disable them, for the son wrested a hanger from one of them, cleft the villain to the ground, and cut the others.

The eldest daughter having unbound her father, the old man united his utmost efforts by the side of his son and friend; and so hard did they press, that the thieves jumped through a window, and ran off.

The young men pursued, and seized two more on Chester Bridge, who dropped a silver tankard. The fifth got on board a vessel at Liverpool, of which his brother was the cook, and bound for the West Indies; which sailed, but was driven back by adverse winds.

The account of the robbery, with the escape of the remaining villain, having reached Liverpool, a king's boat searched every vessel, and at length found the robber, by the wounds he had received, and sent him in fetters to Chester gaol.

Mr. Porter had a servant-man in the house at the time, a countryman of the robbers, who remained an unconcerned spectator, and, afterwards running away, was also sent to prison, charged with being an accomplice. They were brought to trial at Chester assizes, in March, 1752, and condemned.

Boyd, on account of his youth, and his having endeavored to prevail upon the others not to murder Mr. Porter, had his sentence of death remitted for transportation.

The hired servant of Mr. Porter was not prosecuted.

Two or three days previous to

that fixed for execution, Stanley slipped off his irons, and, changing his dress, escaped out of gaol, and got clear off.

On the 25th of May, 1752, M'Cannelly and Morgan were brought out of prison, in order to be hanged. Their behaviour was as

decent as could be expected from such low-bred men. They both declared that Stanley, who escaped, was the solec outriver of the robbery.

They died in the Catholic faith, and were attended by a priest of that persuasion.

## WILLIAM STROUD,

WHIPPED FOR SWINDLING.

HAD this man's offence been committed in Russia, his punishment would have been such as well might serve for the sake of example. It is there very severe, while (through the instrumentality of a guinea or so) it is often too leniently inflicted in England.

The *knout* of Russia would be well applied to the shoulders of an English swindler. The instrument with which whipping is inflicted in Russia is made of leather curiously twisted, and brought to a fine end like whipcord: with this whip the executioners dexterously carry off a slip of skin from the neck to the bottom of the back, laid bare to the waist; and, repeating their blows, in a little while rend away all the skin off the back in parallel stripes. In the common *knout*, the criminal receives the lashes suspended on the back of one of the executioners; but in the great *knout*, which is generally used on the same occasions as racking on the wheel in France, the criminal is hoisted into the air by means of a pulley fixed to the gallows, a cord fastened to the two wrists tied together, and another, of a crucial form, under his breast. Sometimes his hands are tied behind, over his back; and when he is pulled up in this position, his shoulders are dislocated. The executioners make this punishment more or less cruel; and it is said are so dexterous, that,

when a criminal is condemned to die, they can make him expire at pleasure, either by one or several lashes.

As we shall have ample room left to comment on the all-accomplished swindlers of modern times, and as no mode of thieving has made so rapid a progress as this, we shall only here observe that Stroud displayed such dexterity in the infamous art as to keep his neck out of the halter, which, before swindling had arrived at its present degree of perfection, required considerable abilities.

This specious robber was well born and educated, but very early in life took to little tricks of cheating, which sufficiently marked his character. When but a school-boy, he used to purloin blank leaves from the books of his companions, and was remarkable for robbing them of their marbles.

This disposition continued while he was an apprentice; and at length he embarked in business for himself: but he had not been long a master before he considered trade as a drudgery; on which he sold off his stock, took lodgings in Bond Street, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman.

He now lived in a most expensive manner, supplying the extravagances of women of ill fame; which soon reducing him to indigent circumstances, he fixed on a



plan of defrauding individuals ; for which purpose he got credit with a tailor for some elegant suits of apparel, took a genteel house, and hired some servants ; thus imposing himself upon the public as a man of large estate.

An extensive credit, and splendid mode of living, were the consequences of his elegant appearance ; but, some tradesmen bringing in bills which he was equally unable and unwilling to discharge, he sold off his household furniture, and privately decamped.

He now took handsome lodgings in Bloomsbury ; and, dressing himself in velvet clothes, pretended to be the steward of a nobleman of high rank. He likewise took a house in Westminster, in which he placed an agent, who ordered in goods as for the nobleman ; and the tradesmen who delivered these goods were directed to leave their bills for the examination of the steward ; but the effects were no sooner in possession than they were sold to a broker, to the sheer loss of the respective tradesmen.

Strond used to travel into the country in summer, and, having learned the names of London traders with whom people of fortune dealt, he used to write in their names for goods ; but, constantly meeting the waggons that conveyed them, generally received the effects before

they reached the places to which they were directed.

It would be endless to mention all the frauds of which he was guilty. London and the country were equally laid under contribution by him : and jewellers, watch-makers, lacemen, tailors, drapers, upholsters, silversmiths, silk mercers, hatters, hosiers, &c. were by turns dupes to his artifices.

It was impossible for a man proceeding in this manner to evade justice. He was at length apprehended as a common cheat, and committed to the Gatehouse, Westminster. On his examination, a coachmaker charged him with defrauding him of a gilt chariot ; a jeweller, of rings to the amount of a hundred pounds ; a tailor, of a suit of velvet trimmed with gold ; a cabinet-maker, of some valuable goods in his branch ; and several other tradesmen of various articles.

The grand jury having found bills of indictment against him, he was tried at the Westminster sessions, when crowds of witnesses who had been duped and plundered by him appeared to give their evidence ; and he was instantly found guilty.

The Court sentenced him to hard labour in Bridewell for six months, and in that time to be whipped through the streets six times, which was inflicted with the severity intended.

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### ELIZABETH JEFFRIES AND JOHN SWAN, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE unfortunate Mr. Jeffries had been a butcher in London, and had acquired such an ample fortune as to enable him to retire to Walthamstow. The only thing he wanted to complete his happiness was a child, to be the companion of his age, a partaker of his fortune while living, and an inheritor of it

after his death. Accordingly he took his brother's daughter, Elizabeth Jeffries, used her like a parent, and left her by will almost his whole estate. He frequently mentioned this as an inducement to her to be dutiful ; but, when she became negligent in her behaviour, he declared his intention to alter his will,

if she did not alter her conduct. This she determined to prevent by compassing his death. John Swan, to whom Mr. Jeffries had been a very kind master, till he was offended at his familiarity with his niece, meditated this villainy in conjunction with her; and they found a simple fellow, one Matthews, that Mr. Jeffries had employed, whom they thought a proper person to accomplish their villainy. This man for a time rejected their proposals, till at last promises of a considerable reward staggered him, but did not produce the desired effect; for, when the execution was to be performed, the favours he had received from his master obliged him to refuse it, and no threats, no abuses or temptations whatever, could tempt him to alter his resolution.

A dreadful outcry being heard at Walthamstow, about two o'clock in the morning of the 3d of July, 1751, Mr. Buckle, a near neighbour of Mr. Jeffries, awaked his wife, who said, 'It is Miss Jeffries's tongue.' Mrs. Buckle then, going to the window, said, 'There is Miss Jeffries in her shift, without shoe or stocking, at a neighbour's door.' Mr. Buckle, going to her, asked her the reason of her appearance in that manner; to which she said, 'Oh! they have killed him! they have killed him, I fear!' On his desiring her to cover herself, she said 'Don't mind me; see after my uncle.'

Mr. Buckle going to the house, the door was opened by Swan, and the deceased was found lying on his right side, having three wounds on the left side of his head. The visitor, taking him by the hand, said, 'My name is Edward Buckle; if you cannot speak to me, signify to me;' on which Jeffries squeezed him by the hand with as much force as he could.

Some hours after this Miss Jef-

fries desired Mr. Buckle to send informations through the country of the murder of her uncle, with an account of such effects as had been stolen; which a Mrs. Martin said were a silver tankard, a silver cup, and fifteen pewter plates. Mr. Buckle said, 'If I could light on Matthews, I would take him up.' 'No,' said Miss Jeffries, 'don't meddle with him, for you will bring me into trouble, and yourself too, in so doing.'

Matthews, however, was taken into custody; and from his apprehension, and other circumstances, the following facts came to light:

Matthews, having travelled from Yorkshire in search of work, was accidentally met on Epping Forest by Mr. Jeffries, who, seeing him in distress, took him home to work as an assistant to Swan in the garden: the agreement being that he should have his food only as a gratuity, but no wages.

After he had been four days in this service, Miss Jeffries sent him up stairs to wipe a chest of drawers and some chairs; but, presently following him, said, 'What will you do, if a person would give you a hundred pounds?' He said, 'Any thing in an honest way;' on which she bad him go to Swan, and he would tell him.

Swan being in the garden, Matthews went to him, and told him the contents of the message; on which Swan smiled, took him to an out-house, and told him, if he would knock the old miser, his master, on the head, he would give him seven hundred pounds. Two days afterwards Mr. Jeffries dismissed Matthews from his service, and gave him a shilling; and Swan, about the same time, gave him half a guinea to buy a brace of pistols to murder their master.

Matthews, being possessed of

this cash, went to the Green Man, at Low Layton, where he spent all his money; which having done, he proceeded towards London; and, being overtaken on the road by Swan, the latter asked him where he was going. Matthews said 'To London;' on which the other took him to Mr. Gall's, the Green Man and Bell, in Whitechapel, where they drank freely till night; and Swan, being intoxicated, swore he would fight the best man in the house for a guinea. He likewise pulled off his great coat, and threw it on the fire; but the landlord taking it off, and finding it very heavy, searched the pockets, in which he found a brace of pistols.

This circumstance giving rise to unfavorable suspicion, both the men were lodged in the Round-house for that night; and, being carried before Sir Samuel Gower the next day, he committed them to Clerkenwell Bridewell, as disorderly persons.

Miss Jeffries, being made acquainted with their situation, gave bail for their appearance, on which they all went to Gall's house, in Whitechapel, where she upbraided Matthews with bringing Swan into a scrape. He denied that he had done so; on which she gave him a shilling, and desired Swan to tell him to meet them at the Yorkshire Grey, at Stratford. They went in a coach; and Matthews, following on foot, found only Swan there, who gave him half a crown, and bade him meet him, at six the next morning, at the Buck, on Epping Forest. This he did, and, by appointment, came to Walthamstow on the Tuesday following, at ten o'clock at night.

When Matthews arrived, he found the garden-door on the latch; and, going into the pantry, hid himself behind a tub till about

eleven o'clock, when Swan brought him some cold boiled beef.

About twelve Miss Jeffries and Swan came to him; when the latter said, 'Now it is time to knock the old miser, my master, on the head.' Matthews relented, and said, 'I cannot find in my heart to do it;' to which Miss Jeffries replied, 'You may be damned for a villain, for not performing your promise.' Swan, who was provided with pistols, likewise damned Matthews, and said he had a mind to blow his brains out for the refusal.

Swan then produced a book, and insisted that Matthews should swear that he would not discover what had passed: which he did, with this reserve, 'not unless it was to save his own life.'

Soon after this Matthews heard the report of a pistol; when, getting out of the house by the back way, he crossed the ferry, whence he proceeded to Enfield Chace.

It has been mentioned that Miss Jeffries was found in her shift, after the commission of the murder. We have now to add that she screamed out 'Diaper! Diaper! for God's sake, help! Murder! fire! thieves!' The neighbour, Mr. Diaper, saw Miss Jeffries half way out of her window, endeavoring to get down. Mr. Diaper and one Mr. Clarke entered the house, and searched diligently; but could find no traces of any person having quitted the house, as there was a dew on the grass, which did not appear to be disturbed.

Swan went to fetch Mr. Forbes, a surgeon at Woodford, who observed congealed blood in the room, and examined the wounds, which, on the trial, he declared to have been mortal. Swan appeared much frightened at the time, and said he wished that he had died with his



master; for that he would have lost his own life to save his.

As there appeared no marks of any person having been in the house but those belonging to the family, violent suspicions began to arise. Mr. Jeffries died in great agonies at eight o'clock on the following evening.

Miss Jeffries, being taken into custody on suspicion, was examined by two magistrates, to whom she confessed that she heard the report of a pistol, and found her uncle murdered. No evidence arising to criminate her, she proved her uncle's will at Doctors' Commons, and took possession of his estate; but the coroner's inquest having sat on the body, and some circumstances of suspicion arising, she and Swan were committed to prison; and bills of indictment being found against them, they were put to the bar, and their counsel moved for an immediate trial.

This was opposed by the counsel for the prosecution, on account of the absence of Matthews, who, it was presumed, would become a material evidence. The counsel on both sides used all the arguments in their power; but the trial was deferred till the following assizes.

In the interim Mr. Gall, of the public house in Whitechapel, resolved, if possible, to take Matthews into custody; and, conversing with one Mr. Smith, he told him that he had seen Matthews come out of the India House; and, on inquiry, it was found that he had engaged to enter into the service of the East-India Company, and was at a house in Abel's Buildings, Rosemary Lane.

Being taken into custody on a warrant, he was admitted an evidence for the crown, and the trial of Swan and Jeffries came on at Chelmsford on the 11th of March, 1752, before Judge Wright.

Miss Jeffries fainted repeatedly during the trial, and was once in fits for the space of half an hour. The evidence of Matthews was exceedingly clear; and many corroborative circumstances arising, the jury found the culprits guilty, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction Elizabeth Jeffries made the following confession:

'I, Elizabeth Jeffries, do freely and voluntarily confess that I first enticed and persuaded John Swan and Thomas Matthews to undertake and perpetrate the murder of my deceased uncle, which they both consented to do, the first opportunity. That, on the third day of July, 1751, myself and John Swan (Matthews, to my knowledge, not being in the house) agreed to kill my said uncle; and, accordingly, after the maid was gone to bed, I went into John Swan's room, and called him, and we went down together into the kitchen, and, having assisted Swan in putting some pewter and other things into a sack, I said I could do no more, and then I went into my room; and afterwards Swan came up, as I believe, and went into my uncle's room, and shot him; which done, he came to my door, and rapped. Accordingly, I went out in my shift, and John Swan opened the door, and let me out. That done, I alarmed the neighborhood. And I do solemnly declare that I do not know that any person was concerned in the murder of my deceased uncle but myself and John Swan; for that Matthews did not come to my uncle's house the day before, or night in which, the murder was committed as I know of.

'ELIZABETH JEFFRIES.'

'Taken and acknowledged,  
March, 12, 1752.'

Swan for some time expressed great resentment on Miss Jeffries's confession; but, when he learned

that he was to be hung in chains, he began to relent, and seemed at length to behold his crime in its true light of enormity.

On the day of execution they left the prison at four in the morning, Miss Jeffries being placed in a cart, and Swan on a sledge. The unhappy woman had frequent fits during the journey; but, before she came to the place of execution, her spirits became more composed.

Swan appeared to be a real penitent, and joined with the utmost earnestness in the prayers of the clergyman who attended them. Miss Jeffries told the clergyman that she had been seduced by her uncle while his wife was living, and that he had given her medicines to procure abortion at two different times; but for the truth of this we have no evidence but her own declaration. She fainted away just before she was tied up, nor had recovered when the cart drew away.

They were executed near the six-mile stone, on Epping Forest, on

the 28th of March, 1752; and the body of Miss Jeffries having been delivered to her friends for interment, the gibbet was removed to another part of the forest, where Swan was hung in chains.

This murder, so unprovoked in its nature, so dreadful in its example, is sufficient to make one shudder with horror. A niece to murder her uncle, a servant his master, to whom both of them were under obligations—the one for protection, the other for employment—has something in it dreadfully abhorrent to the feelings of humanity!

Surely it cannot be necessary to urge a word of caution to our readers against the commission of so enormous a crime; but, as the human heart is 'corrupt above all things, and desperately wicked,' we cannot be too much on our guard against its temptations, nor pray too fervently that we may be kept in the right path; the path that assuredly produces satisfaction in this life, and affords the fairest prospect of eternal felicity.

## NICHOLAS MOONEY AND JOHN JONES,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THERE is somewhat of a noble mind in the character of Mooney, though he suffered for an ignoble action. Many of the unfortunate men whose career we trace to an untimely end have possessed hearts worthy of a better fate. Juvenile indiscretions have paved the way to enormities; and, to support an ill-acquired habit, they have been driven to commit crimes at which their minds have revolted. Melancholy, indeed, are our pictures of such men; and, if our drawings can but save one single youth from wandering into the road to ruin, our labours will be gratified in mental retrospection.

Nicholas Mooney and John Jones

were condemned at Bristol for a highway robbery. When brought to the bar to receive sentence of death, Mooney, who during the trial had pleaded for his fellow-culprit Jones, thus addressed the judge:—

'My Lord,

'Permit me again to entreat for John Jones, whom I have inveigled and drawn into this trouble (as I have done many others before), that your lordship will be pleased to spare his life.

'As to my own part I have committed many robberies, and have been a rebel against my king, and have wronged my country by coin-ing money, for which I can never

make the public restitution, and, therefore, I am content to die, as I deserve.

‘I pray God to bless every one to whom I have done any wrong; and, if there be any gentlemen of Bristol here whom I have injured, I heartily ask their forgiveness, and more especially that of Mr. Washborough (who stood near to the penitent culprit), whom I attempted to murder; but God saved his life, for which I can never praise Him enough.’

‘My Lord,

‘I desire only three Sundays, and after that time has elapsed I am willing to launch into eternity; and I hope, when I come to the place of execution, that God will open my mouth to warn all against my wicked course of life. I pray God to bless your lordship, and this honorable Court, and may the Lord Jesus receive my soul!’

On the 24th of May, 1752 (three Sundays having passed since sentence was pronounced), Nicholas Mooney, John Jones; and William Cudmore, for returning from transportation before the time of his sentence had elapsed; were brought out of prison for execution.

When arrived at the fatal tree, Mooney, in a pathetic manner, exhorted the surrounding multitude against deviating from the paths of rectitude, and warned them by his untimely fate.

He left a letter to a gentleman who had been kind to him, in the following words:—

‘Sir,

‘Before I die, I take this opportunity of acknowledging your kindness to me in times past. Oh! that I had deserved it; for then I had not brought myself into these circumstances. But God is wise; and, seeing that I did not hear his voice, and turn from my wicked life, he gave me up to my own heart’s lust, and

permitted me to fill up the measure of my iniquity, that in me at last should be shown the severity of his justice.

‘You took me, the most abandoned wretch, for an honest man; and, as such, you kindly and generously recommended me where I might have done well—it is my own fault I did not. On Friday I am to meet the fate my crimes too justly deserve. I merit not only death, but hell: to the former man has doomed me; from the latter, Christ, I hope, will save me. Oh! the riches of His mercy in Jesus Christ, who has made my prison as a palace, my chains as ornaments, and I am quite happy. I hope every one will pray for me, that my faith fail not. I am longing for death, and in firm expectation of a glorious resurrection to eternal life.

‘Your most obliged

‘And dying servant,

‘N. MOONEY.’

When his irons were taken off, he, smiling, said, ‘Death has no sting for me;’ and when released from this incumbrance he ejaculated, ‘I have got rid of the chain of my sins!’ and he appeared cheerful. When the executioner put the rope about his neck, he said, ‘Welcome, halter! I am saved as the thief upon the cross.’ Coming to the fatal tree, his expression was, ‘Welcome, gallows! for I have deserved thee many years.’

The executioner was about to tie up Jones; but, with much earnestness, Mooney exclaimed, ‘Tie me up first, for I am the greatest sinner;’ and then said, ‘Alas, the breath leaves my body, from my sincere repentance, I am confident I shall go to heaven.’ So saying, and we trust his words were verified, with the two other unfortunate men, he yielded up his life; all of them hoping forgiveness in that to come.



'Parent of nature! Master of the world!  
Where'er thy Providence directs, behold  
My steps with cheerful resignation turn.  
Fate leads the willing, drags the backward on;

Why should I grieve, when grieving I must  
bear;  
Or take, with guilt, what guiltless I might  
share?'

### THOMAS WILFORD,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

IN this malefactor, a wretch of the most depraved and low class of the metropolis, we find the passion of love inflamed by the 'green-eyed monster' into jealousy; which, as in greater men, knowing no bounds, works up the mind to madness and desperation. The murder, in such instances, of the fair, and, too often, the frail partner of the heart, generally ensues.

The jealous subject of our narrative was born of very poor parents, at Fulham, in the county of Middlesex; and, coming into the world with only one arm, he was received into the workhouse, where he was employed in going of errands for the paupers, and occasionally for the inhabitants of the town; and he was distinguished by his inoffensive behaviour.

A girl of ill fame, named Sarah Williams, being passed from the parish of St. Giles' in the Fields to the same workhouse, had art enough to persuade Wilford to marry her, though he was then only seventeen years of age; and their inclinations being made known to the churchwardens, they gave the intended bride forty shillings, to enable her to begin the world.

The young couple now went to the Fleet, and were married; after which they took lodgings in St. Giles's; and it was only on the Sunday succeeding the marriage that the murder was perpetrated. On that day the wife, having been out with an old acquaintance, staid till midnight; and, on her return, Wilford, who was jealous of her conduct, asked her where she had

been. She said 'To the Park,' and would give him no other answer; a circumstance that inflamed him to such a degree, that a violent quarrel ensued; the consequence of which was fatal to the wife; for Wilford's passions were so irritated, that he seized a knife, and, she advancing towards him, he threw her down, and, kneeling on her, cut her throat, so that her head was almost severed from her body.

He had no sooner committed the horrid deed than he threw down the knife, opened the chamber-door, and was going down stairs, when a woman, who lodged in an adjacent room, asked who was there; to which Wilford replied, 'It is me; I have murdered my poor wife, whom I loved as dearly as my own life.'

On this the woman went down to the landlord of the house, and was immediately followed by Wilford, who said he had killed the woman that he loved beyond all the world, and was willing to die for the crime he had committed; and he did not make the slightest effort to escape.

On this the landlord called the watch, who, taking Wilford into custody, confined him for that night, and on the following day he was committed to Newgate by Justice Fielding.

Being arraigned on the first day of the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty; but, the Court refusing to record his plea, he was put by till the last day, when he again pleaded guilty, but was prevailed on to put himself on his trial.

Accordingly the trial came on, during which the prisoner did not seek to extenuate the crime of which he had been guilty; on the contrary, his penitent behaviour and flowing tears seemed to testify the sense he entertained of his offence. Every person present seemed penetrated with grief for his misfortunes.

The case of this malefactor has been inserted because he was the first that suffered in consequence of an act that passed in the year 1751, for the more effectual prevention of murder, which decrees that the convict shall be executed on the second day after conviction: for which reason it has been customary to try persons charged with murder on a Friday; by which indulgence, in case of conviction, the execution of the sentence is necessarily postponed till Monday; and by the same act it is ordained that the convicted murderer shall be either hung in chains or anatomized.

The jury having found Wilford guilty, sentence against him was

pronounced in the following terms: 'Thomas Wilford, you stand convicted of the horrid and unnatural crime of murdering Sarah, your wife. This Court doth adjudge that you be taken back to the place from whence you came; and there to be fed on bread and water till Wednesday next, when you are to be taken to the common place of execution, and there hanged by the neck until you are dead; after which your body is to be publicly dissected and anatomized, agreeably to an act of Parliament in that case made and provided; and may God Almighty have mercy on your soul!'

Both before and after conviction Wilford behaved as a real penitent, and at the place of execution he exhibited the most genuine signs of contrition for the crime of which he had been guilty.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of June, 1752, and died more lamented than almost any murderer has ever done at the fatal tree.

### MOSES MORAVIA AND JOHN MANOURY, CONVICTED OF A CONSPIRACY.

SHIP insurers, about this time, were greatly defrauded by conspiracies of villains to sink vessels, in order to come upon the underwriters; a similar offence to a man's setting his house on fire, in order to cheat the fire-office.

It was usual for those who practised the imposition upon ship insurers to purchase goods, pay for them, get them on board, and, in the night-time, take them clandestinely out of the ship, and dispose of them for what they would bring. Thus, when they had sunk the ship, they could produce receipts for the goods, and the shipping papers for the same; upon which the in-

surers were compelled to pay the amount.

This was precisely the crime proved upon these Jews, who, conspiring with one Samuel Wilson, who died before his trial came on, and Captain Misson, commander of the ship Elizabeth and Martha, sunk that fine ship at sea, in order to defraud the underwriters. Misson absconded, and a reward of fifty pounds was offered for apprehending him; but we are sorry at not finding that he was ever brought to justice.

Moravia and Manoury were arraigned for this offence at the bar of the Old Bailey, on the 27th of

June, 1752, and, after a long trial, found guilty.

Solomon Carolina, another Jew, was tried with them, as an accomplice; but the proof not fully reaching him, he was acquitted.

They were sentenced to a year's imprisonment in Newgate, and in that time to stand on the pillory, once on Tower Hill and once at the Royal Exchange; to pay a fine of twenty pounds each; and to find securities for their good behaviour for five years, themselves in two hundred pounds each, and such other

securities as the Court might require.

In undergoing the punishment of the pillory, though the mob handled them according to their deserts, yet we cannot relinquish the idea we have formed that a halter was their due.

We have seen that Captain Lancey was hanged for a similar crime; and, though he commanded his ship when he burnt her, yet accomplices are, by the law, considered as principals in the crime committed.

## ANNE WHALE AND SARAH PLEDGE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

IN every horrid case which we have hitherto adduced some sordid motive is apparent for the commission of the very worst of murders. But here we can trace none—no hatred to her husband—no lustful appetite to satisfy by criminal means—no third of her husband's worldly possessions prompted her to the wicked deed. We cannot admit that a *woman* can have such influence over a *woman* as to persuade her to murder her husband! especially a sober and affectionate husband.

The wretched woman appears to have been seduced by the serpent with much greater facility than our first mother. She was tempted by an apple; but this degenerate daughter appears to have been actuated by no motive; unless, indeed, to gratify her faithless friend's lurking revenge, in shedding the blood of her innocent husband, can be admitted in extenuation.

Anne Whale was born of respectable parents, at Horsham, in Sussex; but her father dying in her infancy, she was left to the care of her mother.

Early in life she gave evidence

of an uncontrollable disposition; and, having a dispute with her mother, she wandered into the country, and associated with people of bad character; but her mother, in order to save her from ruin, at length prevailed on her to return home.

Soon after this she was addressed by a sober young man, named James Whale; and, as a relation had lately left her a legacy of eighty pounds, payable when she was of age, and the mother readily consenting to their alliance, the marriage took place.

They had not been long wedded when they went to reside at a place called Steepwood; but, soon returning to Horsham, they took up their residence in the house of Sarah Pledge, who was distantly related to Mrs. Whale.

A short time after their abode here, a misunderstanding happening between the women, Mr. Whale forbade Mrs. Pledge to come into his apartment: a circumstance that only tended to foment the quarrel.

Soon afterwards, however, the women were privately reconciled;



and, as the man was remarkably sober, and they were of opposite characters, it is the less to be wondered at that they sought the means of his destruction.

Mrs. Whale having lain in, and being tolerably recovered, Mrs. Pledge took the advantage of her husband's absence to come into her room, when she said, 'Nan, let us get rid of this devil!' (meaning Mr. Whale.) The wife said 'How can we do it?' To which the other replied, 'Let us give him a dose of poison.'

The abandoned woman too readily consented to this horrid proposal; and the only difficulty which appeared to arise was how the poison should be procured.

They first attempted their horrid purpose by roasting spiders, and putting them into his beer; but, finding this did not produce the effect, Mrs. Pledge undertook to purchase something more efficacious, and for that purpose went to several market-towns; but, as she went into each apothecary's shop, she either saw, or fancied she saw, some person who knew her, or that her conscience interposed. At length she went to an apothecary at Horsham, to whom she was a stranger; but was still afraid, though she made the purchase.

Hastening to her more wicked friend, she gave her the bane, and Anne, with equal dispatch, administered it; for, at the moment her husband was fondling their child, on whom he doted, she mixed it in some hasty-pudding preparing for his supper. Unsuspicious, the affectionate, but unfortunate man, ate—was soon seized with the rack-

ing torments occasioned by the corrosive mineral—and the next day expired! But the neighbours suspecting that his death was occasioned by some sinister arts, a surgeon examined the body, and the coroner's jury, being summoned, brought in a verdict of 'wilful murder.'

Hereupon Mrs. Whale and Mrs. Pledge being taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate, the latter wished to become evidence; but being separately examined, and both confessing the fact, they were committed to Horsham gaol.

On their trials the confessions which they had signed were read; and, some corroborative evidence arising, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

For some time after conviction Mrs. Pledge behaved in the most hardened manner, making use of profane expressions, and declaring that she would fight with the hangman at the place of execution. On the contrary, Mrs. Whale acknowledged the justice of the sentence which had condemned her, and gave evident signs of her being a real penitent.

On the evening preceding their execution the clergyman who attended them brought Mrs. Pledge into a better state of mind, and then administered the sacrament to both the convicts.

An immense crowd attended at the place of execution, (Horsham, in Sussex,) where Pledge was hanged; and Whale, being tied to a stake, was first strangled, and then burned to ashes, in the twenty-first year of her age, on the 14th of August, 1752.\*

\* We find another shocking instance of revenging injuries done by one person on the body of another in the case of Rachel Beauchamp. This wretch having quarrelled with another woman, her neighbour, and not being able to obtain of her the satisfaction she thirsted for, inveigled from home the child of her antagonist, a beautiful little girl, of four years of age, and cut its throat! For this unprovoked murder she was hanged at Tyburn, the 13th day of January, 1752.

## WILLIAM MONTGOMERY,

EXECUTED FOR DEFRAUDING HIS CREDITORS.

IN a country like England, and more especially when we view the overgrown capital, we must advocate acts of insolvency, though productive of crimes in fraudulent debtors.

The good of many must be pre-eminent to the villainy of a few; and, where we find one punished for abuse of the lenity of the legislative body, there are happily thousands of unfortunate souls rescued from the horrors of a prison, where they had been long immured, without the means of support, much less the capability of satisfying the demands of inexorable creditors.

The necessity of good faith in contracts, and the support of commerce, oblige the legislature to secure, for the creditors, the persons of the bankrupts; and in this point of view may the subject of this case, and all others who take the benefit of an act of insolvency, be considered.

The fraudulent bankrupt should be punished in the same manner as he who adulterates the coin of the realm; for, to falsify a piece of coin, which is a pledge of mutual obligations between men, is not a greater crime than to violate the obligations themselves.

But the bankrupt who, after a strict examination, has proved before the commissioners that either the fraud or losses of others, or misfortunes unavoidable by human prudence, have stripped him of his substance—upon what barbarous pretence is he thrown into prison, and thus deprived of the only remaining good, the melancholy enjoyment of mere liberty? Still more hard the case of an unfortunate trader, who, disclosing his whole transactions, and offering to assign over to his

creditors the remains of his stock, provided they will allow him time to retrieve his losses, is cast into prison by a single hard-hearted unrelenting claimant. Yet is this constantly done in Britain.

Why is such a man cast into a loathsome prison, ranked with criminals; and, in despair, compelled to repent of his honesty? Conscious of his innocence, he lived easy and happy under the protection of those laws, which, it is true, he violated, but not intentionally. Laws are dictated by the avarice of the rich, and tacitly accepted by the poor, seduced by that flattering and universal hope, which makes men believe that all unlucky accidents are the lot of others, and the most fortunate only their own share.

Mankind, when influenced by the first impressions, love cruel laws, although, being subject to them themselves, it is the interest of every person that they should be as mild as possible; but the fear of being injured is always far more prevalent than the intention of injuring others.

But to return to the innocent bankrupt. Let his debt, if you will, not be considered as cancelled till payment of the whole; let him be refused the liberty of leaving the country without leave of his creditors, or of carrying into another nation that industry, which, under a penalty, he should be obliged to employ for their benefit; but what pretence can justify the depriving an innocent, though unfortunate man, of his liberty, without the least utility to his creditors?

Then it may in answer be said, that the hardships of confinement will induce him to discover his fraudulent transactions; an event

that can hardly be supposed, after a rigorous examination into his conduct and affairs.

It will be necessary to distinguish fraud, attended with aggravating circumstances, from simple fraud, and that from perfect innocence. For the first, let there be ordained the same punishment as for forgery. For the second, a punishment with the loss of liberty; and, if perfectly innocent, let the bankrupt himself choose the method of re-establishing himself, and satisfying his creditors.

With what ease might a sagacious legislator prevent the greatest part of fraudulent bankruptcies, and remedy the misfortunes that befall the honest and industrious! A public register of all contracts, with the liberty of consulting it allowed to each tradesman, and a public fund, formed by the contribution of fortunate merchants, for the timely assistance of unfortunate industry, would be establishments that could produce no real inconveniences, and many advantages.

Several eminent bankers, in the history of the trade of London, by an unexpected run upon their house, must have become bankrupts, and thereby embarrassed thousands, had not the Bank of England come to their succour; but, alas! the unfortunate tradesman has no one to catch his fall. Unhappily, the most simple, the easiest regulations, wait only the nod of the legislator, to diffuse through nations wealth, power, and felicity; laws which would be regarded by future generations with eternal gratitude are either unknown or rejected; and a restless and trifling spirit, the timid prudence of the present moment, or a distrust and aversion to the most useful motives, possess the minds of those who are empowered to regulate the actions of mankind.

It must, at the same time, be acknowledged, that the baseness of a few failures often tends to render callous the feelings of creditors.

Few acts of insolvency have been carried into effect, without the detection of fraud. Eager to embrace its benefits, and thus rid them of debt, men will wade through perjury, and employ every means, to accomplish their purpose.

After the destruction of the prisons in London, during the riots of the year 1780, an act was passed for the purpose of absolving all who had then been confined. Of this every rascal in London was ready to take the advantage. A mere form was only necessary—to enter their names; but the signatures became so very numerous, that Lord Chief Justice Mansfield, to his infinite honour, ordered the lists to be printed and published, which put to the rout whole hives of impostors. Names were therein found that might as well have expected to appear in the list of Gazette promotions.

A man of this description was the subject who led to this inquiry.

William Montgomery was a native of Elphinstone, in Scotland, and educated in the Presbyterian form of religion.

His father dying when he was about thirteen years old, his mother sent him to sea in a ship belonging to Alloa. Having continued in the naval line of business some years, he at length married, and opened a public house in Bishopsgate Street; and, dealing largely as a smuggler, he frequently went to Holland, to bring home prohibited goods.

Quitting Bishopsgate Street, he lived some years at the sign of the Highlander, in Shadwell; but, on the death of his wife, he resolved to decline business as a publican.



Having, however, saved some money, he entered again into the matrimonial state, and, taking a house in Nightingale Lane, he let lodgings to seafaring men.

Meeting with success, he took a shop as a seller of seamen's clothes; but left the care of it chiefly to his wife, while he employed his own time in frequent trips to Holland, in pursuit of his former illicit practice of smuggling.

An act of insolvency passing in the year 1748, favorable to such persons as had been in foreign parts fugitives for debt, Montgomery took the benefit of it, swearing that he was at Rotterdam on the last day of the preceding year: in consequence of which he was cleared of his debts, to the injury of his creditors.

No notice was taken of this affair till the expiration of four years, when Montgomery having arrested a neighbour, the man gave notice of his former transactions to one of his creditors, who laying an information before the lord mayor, Montgomery was lodged in Newgate on suspicion.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, several persons deposed that they spent the evening with him at his own house at the time that he alleged that he was in Holland, in order to take the benefit of the act: so that he was convicted, and received sentence to die.

For some time after conviction he behaved with apparent signs of devotion; but asserted his innocence, and said that the evidences against him were perjured; and in this tale he continued till the arrival of the warrant for his execution.

Being pressed by the divine who attended him to tell the truth, he persisted in the former story till the Friday before his death; but in the afternoon of that day he acknowledged that after having been on board a Dutch vessel, in order to take his passage for Holland, he had come on shore, owing to contrary winds.

On the following day he insisted that, 'as he had been sworn according to the methods used in Scotland, without kissing the book, his crime could not come within the meaning of the act.' In reply to this he was told that the mode of administering could make no difference in the nature of an oath.

Hereupon he made a full confession of his crime; and owned that, having come on shore, he concealed himself for some weeks in his own house; then appeared publicly, saying that he had been at Rotterdam: after which he surrendered to the Warden of the Fleet prison, and obtained the benefit of the act of insolvency.

On the Sunday following, when he was pressed to declare the whole truth, he exclaimed, 'What would you have me say? I have told you all the truth, and I can say no otherwise than I have done. If I did, I should belie myself, and my own knowledge.'

This malefactor appeared dreadfully shocked on the morning of execution, and wished for some time for repentance, which he now considered as highly necessary. At the place of execution he warned the spectators to beware of covetousness, which had been the cause of his destruction; after which he was launched into eternity, on the 2d of December, 1752, at Tyburn.



*Captain Lancey quitting the Ship with his Crew, after setting Fire to it.*

### CAPTAIN JOHN LANCEY, EXECUTED FOR BURNING HIS SHIP.

THIS unfortunate man fell a dupe to an artful and wicked villain, his employer, who at the time was a disgraceful member of the House of Commons; and who, to avoid the punishment due to his crimes, fled, and left the unfortunate subject, whose case is before us, a victim to his baseness.

Captain John Lancey was a native of Biddeford, in Devonshire, respectably born, and well educated. As he gave early proofs of an inclination for a seafaring life, he was taught navigation, was attentive to his studies, and gave proofs of a goodness of disposition that promised a better fate than afterwards attended him.

Lancey was sent to sea as mate of a ship, of which Mr. Benson, a rich merchant at Biddeford, was the

proprietor. Lancey, having married a relation of Benson's, was soon advanced to the command of the vessel. This Benson was member of parliament for Barnstaple, in Devonshire; and what kind of character he deserved will appear in the sequel.

After Lancey had returned from a long voyage he was for a considerable time confined to his bed by a violent illness, the expense of which tended considerably to impoverish him. When he was in part recovered, Benson told him that he proposed to refit the ship in which he had formerly sailed; that Lancey should have the command of her; that he (Benson) would insure her for more than double her value; and then Lancey should destroy the vessel.



This proposal appeared shocking to Lancey, who thought it but a trial of his honesty ; and he declared his sentiments, saying that he would never take any part in a transaction so totally opposite to the whole tenor of his conduct.

For the present nothing more was said ; but soon afterwards Benson invited Lancey and several other gentlemen to dine with him. The entertainment was liberal ; and, Captain Lancey being asked to stay after the rest of the company were gone, Mr. Benson took him to a summer-house in the garden, where he again proposed the destroying the ship, and urged it in a manner that proved he was in earnest.

Captain Lancey hesitated a short time on this proposal, and then declined to have any concern in so iniquitous a scheme ; declaring that he would seek other employment rather than take any part in such a transaction ; but Benson, resolving if possible not to lose his agent, prevailed on him to drink freely, and then urged every argument he could think of to prevail on him to undertake the business, promising to shelter him from punishment in case of detection.

Lancey still hesitated ; but when Benson mentioned the poverty to which his family was reduced by his late illness, and offered such flattering prospects of protection, the unhappy man at length yielded to his employer's persuasions.

A ship was now fitted out, and bound for Maryland : goods to a large amount were shipped on board, but re-landed before the vessel sailed, and a lading of brickbats taken in by way of ballast.

They had not been long at sea when a hole was bored in the side of the ship, and a cask of combustible ingredients was set on fire with

a view to destroy her. The fire no sooner appeared than the captain called to some convicted transports then in the hold, to inquire if they had fired the vessel ; which appears to have been only a feint, to conceal the real design.

The boat being hoisted out, all the crew got safe on shore ; and then Lancey repaired immediately to Benson, to inform him of what had passed : Benson instantly dispatched him to a proctor, before whom he swore that the ship had accidentally taken fire, and that it was impossible to prevent the consequences which followed.

Lancey now repaired to his own house, and continued with as much apparent unconcern as if such a piece of villainy had not been perpetrated ; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody by a constable, who informed him that oath had been made of the transaction before the mayor of Exeter by one of the seamen. Lancey, however, did not express much concern, secure in his idea of protection from the supposed influence of Benson.

On the following day Lancey, and one of the ship's crew, were committed to the gaol of Exeter, where they remained three months ; and, being then removed to London, were examined by Sir Thomas Salisbury, the judge of the Admiralty Court, and committed to the prison of the Marshalsea. Application was afterwards made to the Court of Admiralty, to admit them to bail ; and there appeared to be no objection to granting the favour ; but Benson, on whom they had depended for bail, had absconded, to escape the justice due to his atrocious crime.

Being committed to Newgate, they were brought to trial at the next sessions of Admiralty held at the Old Bailey ; when Lancey was



capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but the other was acquitted.

Lancey lay in prison about four months after conviction, during which his behaviour was altogether consistent with his unhappy situation. His Christian charity was remarkable towards Benson; for, though that wicked man had been the cause and instigator of his ruin, yet he never once reflected on him, but imputed all the crime to himself, and appeared to behold it in its genuine light of deformity.

It was presumed, when he was first apprehended, that he might

have been admitted an evidence against Benson, if he would have impeached him; but this he steadily refused to do.

His devotional exercises were exemplary: he attended prayers in the most regular manner, and gave every proof of his contrition. He was accompanied to the place of execution by two clergymen; and, having confessed his guilt in a speech to the surrounding multitude, he underwent the sentence of the law on the 7th of June, 1754, at Execution Dock, in the 27th year of his age.



*Ann Williams burnt at the Stake.*

### ANN WILLIAMS,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND.

THE behaviour of this fiend had long been a prelude to the diabolical crime which she committed. She was in her family turbulent and

dictatorial; her husband the very reverse. His mild and quiet disposition served only to nurse her opposition and violence. He had

long given way to her in all things, and she, in return, ruled him with a rod of iron.

Before the commission of this horrid deed we have found women make use of man's unqualified indulgence. Hence arose the vulgar saying of 'the grey mare being the better horse,' of 'hen-pecked husbands,' and many other irritating observations on men troubled with shrews.

One of the wisest of the ancient philosophers had his Xantippe: and the poet sings,

'When man to woman gives the sway,  
To what is right they oft say Nay.'

The pliancy of the more unfortunate man in question could not shield him from the consequence of the ascendancy she had over him; it sunk into contempt, and she determined to rule alone. To effect this, her wicked heart suggested the death of her husband. For this horrid purpose she prevailed on their servant-man to purchase some white mercury, which she mixed in some gruel, and caused him to eat it. This mode of administering the poison, it was conjectured, was

adopted in contempt of him; for it appeared the poor man did not like gruel. She then directed him to draw her some ale, of which he also drank; and was immediately seized with violent purgings and vomiting. She told the man, whom it seems she meant afterwards to share her bed, that she 'had given her husband the stuff he brought, and that it was operating purely.'

The dying man, in his agonies, said his wife was a wicked woman; that he was well until she made him eat some pap, which had done his business, and that he should be a dead man on the morrow; and, in spite of medical aid, he died next day, his body being in a state of mortification.

The horrid crime being fully proved against her, she received sentence to be burnt at the stake, which sentence was accordingly carried into execution at Gloucester, April 13, 1753, among a number of spectators, who showed little pity for her fate, and which became still more shocking from denying the fact, so incontrovertibly proved, to the very last moment of her existence.

## DOCTOR ARCHIBALD CAMERON,

EXECUTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

THE rebellion having been now suppressed nearly eight years, and the British nation enjoying internal peace, we could have wished the royal mercy had been extended to Dr. Cameron, whose private character was unexceptionable. Indeed the very small part he took in the crime, for which he suffered equally with the most active chief, he appears to have been drawn into the commission of by attending his elder brother alone, with his professional services.

By an act of attainder passed

the year after the rebellion, for the effectual punishment of persons concerned in it, the life of Dr. Cameron was forfeited to its rigour.

The brother of this unfortunate man was the chief of the family of their name in the Highlands, and had obtained the highest degree of reputation by his zealous and effectual endeavours to civilize the manners of his countrymen.

Dr. Cameron, being intended by his father for the profession of the law, was sent to Glasgow, where he continued his studies some years;

but, having an attachment to the practice of physic, he entered in the University of Edinburgh; from whence he went to Paris, and then completed his studies at Leyden, in Holland.

Though well qualified to have cut a respectable figure in any capital city, yet he chose to reside for life near his native place; and, having returned to the Highlands, he married, and settled in the small town of Lochaber; where, though his practice was limited, his generous conduct rendered him the delight and the blessing of the neighborhood. His wife bore him seven children, and was pregnant of the eighth at the unfortunate period of his death.

While Dr. Cameron was living happy in the domestic way, the rebellion broke out, and laid the foundation of the ruin of himself and his family. The Pretender, having landed, went to the house of Mr. McDonald, and sent for the doctor's brother, who went to him, and did all in his power to dissuade him from an undertaking from which nothing but ruin could ensue.

The elder Mr. Cameron having previously promised to bring all his clan in aid of the Pretender, the latter upbraided him with an intention of breaking his promise; which so affected the generous spirit of the Highlander, that he immediately went and took leave of his wife, and gave orders for his vassals, to the number of near twelve hundred, to have recourse to arms.\*

This being done, he sent for his brother, to attend him as a physician; but the doctor urged every argument against so rash an undertaking, from which he even be-

sought him on his knees to desist. The brother would not be denied; and the doctor at length agreed to attend him as a physician, though he absolutely refused to accept of any commission in the rebel army.

This unhappy gentleman was distinguished by his humanity; and gave the readiest assistance, by night or day, to any wounded men of the royal army, who were made prisoners by the rebels. His brother being wounded in the leg at the battle of Falkirk, he attended him with the kindest assiduity, till himself was likewise slightly wounded.

Dr. Cameron exhibited repeated instances of his humanity: but when the battle of Culloden gave a decisive stroke to the hopes of the rebels, he and his brother escaped to the western islands, whence they sailed to France, in a vessel belonging to that kingdom.

The doctor was appointed physician to a French regiment, of which his brother obtained the command; but the latter dying at the end of two years, the doctor became physician to Ogilvie's regiment, then in Flanders.

A subscription being set on foot, in England and Scotland, in the year 1750, for the relief of those persons who had been attainted, and escaped into foreign countries, the doctor came into England to receive the money for his unfortunate fellow-sufferers. At the end of two years another subscription was opened; when the doctor, whose pay was inadequate to the support of his numerous family, came once more to this country; and, having written a number of urgent letters to his friends, it was rumoured that he was returned.

Hereupon a detachment from

\* At this time Mr. Cameron's estate did not exceed seven hundred pounds per annum. His being able, then, to arm such a number, is a proof of the poverty and the vassalage of the country at that period.



Lord George Beauclerk's regiment was sent in search of him, and he was taken in the following manner:—Captain Graves, with thirty soldiers, going towards the place where it was presumed he was concealed, saw a little girl at the extremity of a village, who, on their approach, fled towards another village. She was pursued by a servant and two soldiers, who could only come near enough to observe her whispering to a boy, who seemed to have been placed for the purpose of conveying intelligence.

Unable to overtake the boy, they presented their guns at him; on which he fell on his knees, and begged his life; which they promised, on the condition that he would show them the place where Dr. Cameron was concealed.

The boy pointed to the house where he was, which the soldiers surrounded, and took him prisoner. Being sent to Edinburgh, he was thence conducted to London, and committed to the Tower.

While in this confinement he was denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, nor suffered to speak to his friends but when the warden was present. On his examination before the lords of the privy council, he denied that he was the same Dr. Cameron whose name had been mentioned in the act of attainder; which made it necessary to procure living evidence to prove his identity.

Being brought to the bar of the Court of King's Bench on the 17th of May, he was arraigned on the act of attainder, when, declining to give the Court any farther trouble, he acknowledged that he was the person who had been attainted; on which the Lord Chief Justice Lee pronounced sentence in the following terms:—‘You, Archibald Cameron, of Lochiel, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, must

he removed from hence to his majesty's prison of the Tower of London, from whence you came, and on Thursday, the 7th of June next, your body to be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not till you are dead; your bowels to be taken out, your body quartered, your head cut off, and affixed at the king's disposal; and the Lord have mercy on your soul!’

After his commitment to the Tower he begged to see his wife, who was then at Lisle, in Flanders; and, on her arrival, the meeting between them was inexpressibly affecting. The unhappy lady wept incessantly, on reflecting on the fate of her husband, herself, and numerous family.

Coming to take her final leave of him on the morning of execution, she was so agitated by her contending passions, that she was attacked by repeated fits; and, a few days after the death of her unfortunate husband, she became totally deprived of her senses.

On the 7th of June, 1753, the sheriffs went to the Tower, and demanded the body of Dr. Archibald Cameron, who was accordingly brought to them by William Rauford, Esq. the deputy-lieutenant.

As soon as he was seated on the sledge, whereon he was to be drawn to the place of execution, he requested to speak to his wife; but being informed that she had left the Tower, after taking leave of him, at eight o'clock, he replied he was sorry for it; upon which the sledge moved towards Tyburn, among a great number of spectators, who all pitied his situation.

The doctor was dressed in a light-coloured coat, red waistcoat, and breeches, and a new bag-wig. He looked much at the spectators in the houses and balconies, as well as

at those in the streets, and bowed to several persons with whom he had been acquainted.

At a quarter past twelve the solemn procession reached Tyburn, where he looked on the officers and spectators with an undaunted and composed countenance; and, as soon as unloosed from the sledge, he started up, and, with an heroic deportment, stepped up into the cart; whence, looking round with unconcern on all the apparatus of death, he smiled. Seeing the clergyman that had before attended him coming up the steps, he came forward to meet him, and endeavoured, with his fettered hands, to help him up, saying, 'So, are you come?—this is a glorious day to me:—'tis my new birth-day!—there are more witnesses at this birth than at my first.'

The clergyman, being now at the side of the cart, asked 'how he felt himself.' He answered, 'Thank God, I am very well, but a little fatigued with my journey; but, blessed be God! I am now come to the end of it.'

The sheriff asking the clergyman whether he would be long about his office, Dr. Cameron immediately took the words, and said he required but very little time; for it was disagreeable to be there, and he was as impatient to be gone as they were.

The clergyman then demanded of the gentleman who had spoken whether he was the sheriff, and, on being answered in the affirmative, he told him Dr. Cameron's business would be chiefly with him; that he had something to communicate to him, if he would take the trouble to come near, which he very readily complied with, and endeavoured to ride his horse close to the cart; but finding the beast a little unruly, and that he could not hear what the

doctor said by reason of the noise of the multitude, he beckoned with his hand for silence, but to no purpose; upon which he humanely alighted, and came up to the steps; whence, with great civility and attention, he listened to the doctor, who spoke to the following purpose:—

'Sir, you see a fellow-subject just going to pay his last debt: I more cheerfully resign my life, as it is taken from me for doing my duty, according to my conscience. I freely forgive all my enemies, and those who have been instrumental in taking away my life. I thank God I die in charity with all men.'

'As to my religion, I die a steadfast, though unworthy, member of that Church in which I have always lived, the Church of England; in whose communion I hope, through the merits of my blessed Saviour, for forgiveness of my sins, for which I am heartily sorry.'

'The custom of delivering something in writing, on such occasions as this, I should willingly have complied with, had it not been put out of my power, being denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, except in the presence of some of my keepers.'

'But what I intend my country should be informed of, with regard to my dying sentiments, I have, by means of a blunt pencil, endeavoured to set down on some slips of paper, as I came by them, in as legible characters as I was able; and these I have left in the hands of my wife, charging her, on her duty to her dying husband, to transmit, with all convenient speed, a faithful transcript of them to you; and I am confident she will faithfully discharge the trust.'

This truly unfortunate man then told the sheriff he would no longer presume upon his patience; but

the sheriff, with looks that showed a great deal of concern, begged he would take as much time as he pleased, for he would wait until he was ready. The doctor thanked him; and, turning to the clergyman, said, 'I have now done with this world, and am ready to leave it.'

He now joined him in some short prayers, and repeated some ejaculations out of the Psalms; then embraced the clergyman, and took his farewell.

As the divine was going down from the cart he had nearly missed the steps; which the doctor observing; he called to him in a cheerful tone of voice, saying, 'Take care how you go; I think you don't know this way as well as I do!' and now, giving the signal, the cart drew from under him.

After the body had hung twenty minutes it was cut down: the heart was taken out and burnt, but it was not quartered.

On the following Sunday the remains of Dr. Cameron were in-

terred in a large vault in the Savoy chapel.

Such was the end of an unfortunate man, who appears, from all we have been able to learn of him, to have deserved a better fate. Well educated, humane in disposition, the kind husband, tender father, and affectionate friend, he is almost the last one would have suspected to have come to such an ignominious end: and, indeed, what ought to speak in his praise, his fraternal affection seems to have led to his ruin.

Dr. Cameron was the last person who suffered on account of the rebellion; and, of all who were concerned in it, perhaps he was the least deserving of his calamitous fate: but the ways of Providence are inscrutable; and it is the duty of mortals to adore that divine wisdom which they cannot comprehend—that wisdom, which, being enwrapped in the clouds which surround mortality, will be developed in a future, a more perfect, state!

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### CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON AND JOHN STOCKDALE, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

IN the account of Johnson we trace his birth to Newgate: he was the son of one Roger Johnson and his wife, who were prisoners on a charge of a defraud. Soon after they obtained their liberty the father died; and the mother sent the child to her relations at Derby, who, having given him a tolerable education, apprenticed him to a saddler; but at the expiration of three years he ran away, and travelled to London.

On his arrival he went to some of his mother's relations, who endeavoured to persuade him to return to Derby; but, deaf to their advice, and having imbibed false ideas of

gentility, he procured some elegant clothes, and frequented the gaming-houses, where he soon made the most dangerous connexions, and arrived at the head of his profession.

From the practice of gaming he took to that of forgery, as he was remarkably expert in imitating the hands of other people to notes payable to himself; by which he repeatedly acquired money, but still escaped detection.

His temerity was such, that he sometimes arrested persons on whom he had committed forgeries, and compelled the payment of the money by having people ready to swear that the handwriting was



that of the party whose name was subscribed to the draft.

The following is one specimen of his devices :—He forged a note on a lady of considerable fortune, and signed her name to it so like her writing, that she almost discredited her own sight when she read it. Johnson arrested her ; but, as she knew she had given no such note, she bailed the action, and prepared to stand trial ; but the guilty man declined all farther proceedings.

During this abandoned course of life he became acquainted with the daughter of a man who kept an ale-house in the Strand, and they were privately married in the Fleet ; but, animosities soon arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows ; the consequence of which was that they parted, and his wife became a common streetwalker.

After this Johnson took to picking pockets, and other low practices of fraud ; but a miserable poverty still attended him, for what he got dishonestly was soon spent in dissipation. At length he met with Stockdale at Sadler's Wells, and agreed to see him the next evening at a house in Holborn.

Stockdale was born at Leicester, where his father was a reputable proctor, who gave him an excellent education, but was too fond of him to keep that strict guard over his conduct which might have been essential to his future welfare. He very soon showed a disposition to idleness, which was not properly checked by his parents, who would not permit his schoolmaster to chastise him for his faults.

When the father saw his error, he determined, in pursuance of the advice of some friends, to send him to a proctor in Doctors' Commons, where he hoped to hear of a speedy reformation in his manners.

Stockdale, however, was of too idle a disposition to brook confinement. His extravagance exceeded the bounds of his father's allowance, and he borrowed of his acquaintance to supply his immediate wants.

In this way he went on, frequenting places of public diversion, till those who had lent him money teased him for a return of it ; and he was at a loss for farther resources, when he met Johnson at Sadler's Wells, as above mentioned.

On the following day these ill-fated youths met at the appointed place, and made a contract for their mutual destruction. At this time Johnson was under twenty, and Stockdale not eighteen years of age.

Stockdale agreed to accompany Johnson ; and the next day they hired horses and rode towards Rumford, near which the party lived whom they intended to rob ; and, having wasted the time till night, they tied their horses to a hedge, and, being armed with pistols, they knocked at the door, which being opened by the old gentleman, Johnson presented a pistol to his breast ; and then they bound him and his two servants, and told the master that he must expect immediate death if he did not discover where his money was concealed.

Terrified by this threat, he told them to take a key from his pocket, which would open a bureau, where they would find a bag containing all the cash then in his possession. The robbers having seized the property, Johnson put the bag into his pocket, and then remounted, and rode to London, where they found the booty to consist of one hundred and fifty pounds : but this they soon dissipated in acts of extravagance, and then proceeded to commit a

number of robberies on the roads of Essex and Kent.

It is now proper to mention the crime for which they suffered—a murder equally barbarous and unprovoked. They took horses in Holborn, and, having rode to Edmonton, turned up a lane, where they met a postman who was carrying letters round the neighborhood: the man goodnaturedly opened the gate for them to pass, when Johnson demanded his money and watch, which he held out to them, and at that instant was shot dead by Stockdale.

The murder was no sooner committed than they hastened to London; and, though the country was alarmed at what had happened, they rode on the following day to Hounslow, where they dined. After dinner they called for their horses; but Stockdale was so intoxicated that he at first fell from his horse, but was replaced.

The magistrates having by this time sent out a number of constables, the murderers were taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate, when Stockdale acknowledged his guilt; but by this time Johnson was so drunk that he was insensible of his commitment to Newgate.

When Stockdale's master heard of his unhappy situation he immediately wrote to his father, who, coming to London, had a very affecting interview with his son, who exclaimed, 'Oh, sir, how shall I look you in the face? what disgrace have I brought upon you, what destruction upon myself! A shameful death is preparing for me in this world; but what in the next, God knows!'

The father advised him to an

early preparation for the awful fate that awaited him, and refused to flatter him with hopes of that pardon which could not reasonably be expected. He comforted himself accordingly, and intended to have pleaded guilty, but was afterwards advised not to do so.

When brought up to receive sentence of death, Johnson was so unwell, that he was indulged with a chair.

Stockdale kept up his spirits with decent fortitude, until his eyes met those of a gentleman near him with whom he had lived, when he burst into tears, and continued in great agitation the remainder of the awful time, frequently beating his head and breast in a violent manner.

On the 3d of July, 1753, they were carried to Tyburn. Johnson was so extremely debilitated that he could pay no attention at the place of execution to the preparation of his soul for another life;\* but Stockdale prayed fervently, and made a pathetic address to the populace at the fatal tree.

After hanging the usual time, their bodies were taken to Surgeons' Hall for dissection; and preparation for that purpose was making, when an order came from the office of the secretary of state that they should be hung in chains on Winchmore Hill, where they were accordingly placed—a terrible example!

Soon after they were hung in chains the following advertisement appeared in the London Gazette:

'General Post Office,

'Oct. 28, 1753.

'Whereas an anonymous letter has been sent to the Right Honorable Thomas Earl of Leicester, his

\* We cannot avoid questioning the moral right of man putting man to a public death in a state of insensibility: it is little better than sending his soul, unprepared, to render up an account of his sins to his Maker.

majesty's postmaster-general, in the following terms :

“ My Lord,

“ I find that it was by your orders that Mr. Stockdale was hung in chains : now, if you don't order him to be taken down, I will set fire to your house, and blow your brains out the first opportunity.

“ Thursday, October, 1753.”

“ A reward of one hundred pounds is hereby offered to any person who shall or may make a discovery of the party or parties concerned in writing or sending the abovesaid letter, so that he, she, or they, may be convicted thereof ; together with his majesty's most gracious pardon to any accomplice

who shall make discovery of the same.

“ By order of the postmaster-general,

“ GEORGE SHELVOKE, Sec.”

The incendiary was not discovered ; Stockdale's remains continued on the gibbet ; and the postmaster-general and his house remained in safety.

It is impossible but that young men of any degree of sense must be struck with the case of these offenders, particularly that of Stockdale, who being well educated, and respectably placed in the world, could so easily forego all his better prospects to become at once a robber and a murderer !

## MARY SQUIRES AND ELIZABETH CANNING,

THE FORMER CONVICTED OF ROBBERY, AND THE LATTER TRANSPORTED FOR PERJURY.

THIS is a case upon which human sagacity can hardly determine : we shall, therefore, give a fairly stated account from the evidence as it arose, and

“ Nothing extenuate, or set down aught in malice.”

If Elizabeth Canning's own story may be credited, she quitted the house of her mother, near Aldermanbury, on the 1st of January, 1753 ; and, having visited her uncle and aunt, who lived near Saltpetre Bank, was, on her return, assaulted in Moorfields by two men, who robbed her of half a guinea, which was in a small box in her pocket, and three shillings that were loose. They also took her gown, apron, and hat, which one of them put into the pocket of his great-coat ; on which she screamed out : but he bound a handkerchief round her mouth, and tied her hands behind her ; after which she received a violent blow on the head, which,

adding to her former terror, occasioned her falling into a fit—a disorder to which she had been subject about four years.

On her recovery from the fit, and about half an hour before she reached Wells's house, she found herself by the road-side, the two men dragging her forward. She observed water near the road, and arrived at the house where she said she was confined about three hours before day-light. When she came into the house she did not see the mistress of it, Susannah Wells ; but saw Mary Squires, a gipsy, and two girls.

Squires, taking Canning by the hand, asked her if she chose to go their way ; and, if she would, she should have fine clothes. Canning, understanding that her meaning was to commence prostitute, replied in the negative ; on which Squires took a knife from a drawer, cut the lace from her stays, and took them from



her. Then Squires pushed her up a few stairs, out of the kitchen, to a place called the hay-loft, and shut the door on her. On the approach of day-light, she found that the room had neither bed nor bedstead, and only hay to sleep on; that there was a black pitcher nearly full of water, and about twenty-four pieces of bread, in the whole about the quantity of a quartern loaf; and that she had in her pocket a penny minced pie, which she had bought to carry to her brother.

She said that she covered herself with a bed-gown and handkerchief which she found in the grate; and that, for the space of twenty-eight days, within a few hours, which she remained there, she had no food nor liquor except what is above mentioned, nor had the common evacuation of nature.

About four in the afternoon of Monday, the 29th of January, she pulled down a board that was nailed on the inside of the window, and, getting her head first out, she kept fast hold by the wall, and then dropped into a narrow place by a lane, behind which was a field.

Having got into the highway, she inquired her way to London, but did not stop. When she came into Moorfields the clock struck ten; and she thence proceeded to her mother's, near Aldermanbury, where she told the above story to two gentlemen with whom she had lived as a servant: to which she added, that the place where she had been confined was near the Hertfordshire road, which was evident from her having seen a coachman drive by who had frequently carried her mistress into Hertfordshire.

A number of circumstances giving reason to suspect that the house in which she had been confined was that of Susannah Wells, a warrant was issued to apprehend her and

Squires, and such other people as might be found in the house.

Mr. Lion, with whom she had lived servant, and several other persons, went with her to execute the warrant. When she came to the place she fixed on Mary Squires as the person who had robbed her; and she said that Virtue Hall stood by while her stays were cut off.

On this all the parties were carried before Justice Tyshmaker; when Hall so solemnly denied all knowledge of any such transaction having happened since she had been in the house, that she was discharged; but Squires was committed to the New Prison for the robbery, and Wells for aiding and abetting her.

Soon afterwards Justice Fielding was applied to for a warrant for the apprehension of Hall, and she was examined before that magistrate for six hours, during which she continued in her former declaration. At length the justice said that he would examine her no longer, but would commit her to prison, and leave her to stand or fall by the evidence that should be produced against her; and he advised an attorney to prosecute her as a felon.

At this she begged to be heard, and said she would tell the whole truth; and the substance of her declaration was, that Canning had been at Mrs. Wells's, and was robbed in the manner that she had declared.

On this Squires and Wells were brought to trial at the Old Bailey, and convicted principally on the evidence of Virtue Hall, the first for assaulting and robbing Elizabeth Canning, and the latter for harboring, concealing, and comforting her, well knowing her to have committed the robbery; and John Gibson, William Clark, and Thomas Grevil, having positively sworn that Squires was in Dorsetshire at

the time when the robbery was said to have been perpetrated, they were committed to be tried for perjury.

Some gentlemen who had heard the trial, being dissatisfied with the evidence, made such application that a free pardon was granted to Squires.

In the mean time numbers of people were of opinion that the countrymen had sworn to the truth; and measures were accordingly taken to indict Canning for perjury: but, at the next sessions, her friends preferred bills of indictment against the men. Bills of indictment against the opposite parties being brought at the same time, the grand jury threw them all out; being resolved not to give any countenance to such a scene of perjury as must arise on the one side or the other.

This happened at the sessions in April; but, at the next sessions, in June, bills of indictment were found against the countrymen. These, however, were intended to be removed into the Court of King's Bench, by writ of certiorari; but the Court refused to grant the writ, alleging that the indictments ought to be tried at the Old Bailey, because the king's commission of gaol delivery was directed to that Court. On this the countrymen were bailed; and, at the sessions held in the month of September following, they were arraigned, but were honorably acquitted, no person appearing to give evidence against them.

Squires being pardoned, and these men thus acquitted, the public opinion of this singular case became still more divided. Every one saw that there must have been perjury in the affair; but it was impossible to determine on which side it lay.

The Lord Mayor of London, at that time, was Sir Crisp Gascoyne, who exerted himself in the most vi-

gilant manner to come at the truth of this mysterious affair; for which, as is but too common, he was abused with a degree of virulence that reflected the highest infamy on his calumniators; for, whatever might be their private opinion, or whatever his own, it was certainly the duty of a good magistrate to endeavour to investigate the truth.

In the month of May, 1754, Elizabeth Canning was indicted at the Old Bailey for wilful and corrupt perjury, in swearing that she had been robbed by Mary Squires. A great number of witnesses swore that Squires was near Abbotsbury at the time that the robbery was said to have been committed: and, on the contrary, more than thirty persons of reputation declared on oath that Canning's character stood so fair that they could not conceive her capable of being guilty of such an atrocious crime as wilful perjury.

Ingenuous arguments were used by the counsel on each side; and the jury, after mature deliberation, brought in a verdict that she was guilty; in consequence of which she received sentence to be transported for seven years.

No affair that was ever determined in a judicial way did, perhaps, so much excite the curiosity or divide the opinion of the public as that in question.—The newspapers and magazines were for a long time filled with little else than accounts of Canning and Squires: prints of both parties were published, and bought with avidity. Canning was remarkable for what is called the plainness, and Squires for the ugliness, of person; and perhaps there never was a human face more disagreeable than that of the latter.

We shall here give extracts from two interesting pamphlets published

upon this subject—one written by Henry Fielding, Esq. in favour of Elizabeth Canning; and the other by Dr. Hill, on the side of Mary Squires, the gipsy. In Mr. Fielding's pamphlet, entitled 'A clear State of the Case of Elizabeth Canning,' is given the narrative of her being seized in Moorfields, &c. 'The objections,' says Mr. Fielding, 'to the truth of her statement, are placed in the strongest light, and satisfactorily answered; and the improbability of her story being false clearly shown. That the girl, after the absence of a month, returned in the dreadful condition that has been published, is a known fact. A very fair presumption follows that she was confined somewhere, and by some person; that she was almost starved to death; that she was confined in a place whence it was difficult to make her escape; that, however, this escape was possible; and that at length she actually made it. Now, why did this girl conceal the person who thus cruelly used her? It could not be a lover; for, among all the cruelties by which men have become infamous in their commerce with women, none of this kind can be produced. Again, what motive can be invented for her laying this heavy charge on those who are innocent? Can it be believed that a young girl (hardly eighteen years old, who hath the unanimous testimony of all who have known her from her infancy to support the character of a virtuous, modest, sober, well-disposed girl) would endeavour to take away the lives of an old woman, her son, and another man, as well as to ruin another woman, without any motive whatever? As to any motive of getting money, nothing can be more groundless and evidently false than this suggestion. The subscription was set

on foot, long after the girl's return to her mother, by several well-disposed neighbours and substantial tradesmen, in order to bring a set of horrid villains to justice; which then appeared, as it has since proved, to be a matter that would be attended with considerable expense. The first proposer of a reward to the girl was a noble lord, who was present at the last examination of this matter in Bow Street. Again, as the girl can scarcely be supposed wicked enough, she is certainly not witty enough, to invent such a story. She is a child in years, and yet more so in understanding, with all the marks of simplicity that ever were discovered in a human countenance. Another improbability of the falsehood of her story arises from the manner in which this girl hath supported it. Before noblemen, and magistrates, and judges, persons who must have inspired a girl of this kind with the highest awe, she went through her evidence without hesitation, confusion, trembling, change of countenance, or other apparent emotion. As such a behaviour could proceed only from the highest impudence or most perfect innocence, so it seemed clearly to arise from the latter, being accompanied with such a show of decency, modesty, and simplicity, that, if these were all affected (which those who disbelieve her must suppose), it must have required not only the highest art, but the longest practice and habit, to bring it to such a degree of perfection. Another improbability is, that this girl should fix on a place so far from home, and where it doth not appear she had ever been before. In this point her evidence stands confirmed by the declaration of Wells herself. It is true, indeed, that, as to her being confined there, Wells utterly



denies it: but she as positively affirms that Canning was never there at any other time, nor in any other manner. Hence arises an utter impossibility of the falsehood of her story; for, unless this poor girl had been well acquainted with the house, the hay-loft, the pitcher, &c. how was it possible that she should describe them all so very exactly as she did, at her return to her mother's, in the presence of such numbers of people? Nay, she described likewise the prospect that appeared from the hay-loft with such exactness as required a long time to furnish her with the particulars. Another improbability is that she should charge the gipsy woman, when she must have known that woman could prove an *alibi*, (her being elsewhere,) and not Susannah Welis, who could have no such proof.'

But the point of evidence, which was the principal foundation of that credit which the author of the 'State of the Case' gave to this extraordinary story, is the agreement, in so many particular circumstances, between the evidence of Elizabeth Canning and Virtue Hall. That Virtue Hall had never seen or heard the evidence of Elizabeth Canning at the time when she made her own information is a fact: and even since her apostacy she does not pretend to say that Canning and she laid this story together; but imputes her evidence to her being bullied and threatened into it; which, to the knowledge of many, was a most impudent falsehood: and, secondly, ascribes her agreeing with Elizabeth Canning to having heard her deliver her evidence; which, besides being impossible, has been proved to be another notorious falsehood by a great number of witnesses of indisputable credit.

'I have this very afternoon,' (Sunday, the 18th instant,) adds the author of the "State of the Case," 'read over a great number of affidavits corroborating the whole evidence of Canning, and contradicting the *alibi* defence of the gipsy woman. These affidavits are by unquestionable witnesses; and sworn before three worthy justices of the peace for the county of Middlesex, who live in the neighborhood of Enfield Wash.

'Upon the whole—this case, whether it be considered in a private or in a public light, deserves to be scrutinized to the bottom; and that can only be done by the government authorizing some very capable and very indifferent persons to examine into it; and particularly into the *alibi* defence of Mary Squires, the gipsy woman. On the one side, here is the life of a subject at stake, who, if her defence is true, is innocent; and a young girl guilty of the blackest, most premeditated, and most audacious perjury, levelled against the lives of several innocent persons. On the other side, if the evidence of Elizabeth Canning is true, and perjury should, nevertheless, prevail against her, an innocent young creature, who hath suffered the most cruel and unheard-of injuries, is in danger of being rewarded for them by ruin and infamy; and, what must extremely aggravate her case, and will distinguish her misery from that of all other wretches upon earth, is, that she will owe all this ruin and infamy to this strange circumstance—that her sufferings have been beyond what human nature is supposed capable of bearing; whilst robbery, cruelty, and the most impudent of all perjuries, will escape with impunity and triumph: and therefore will so escape, because the barbarity of the guilty

parties hath risen to such a pitch of wanton and untempted inhumanity, beyond all possibility of belief.

‘As to my own conduct in this affair, I know it to be highly justifiable before God and before man. I frankly own I thought it entitled me to the very reverse of censure. The truth is, the same motive prevailed with me then which principally urged me to take up my pen at this time—a desire to protect innocence and to detect guilt; and the delight in so doing was the only reward I ever expected, so help me God! And I have the satisfaction to be assured that those who know me best will most believe me. In solemn truth, the only error I can be charged with in this case is an error in sagacity. If Elizabeth Canning be guilty of a false accusation, I own she hath been capable of imposing on me; but I have the comfort to think the same imposition hath passed not only on two juries, but likewise on one of the best judges that ever sat on the bench of justice, and on two other very able judges, who were present at the trial.

‘I do not, for my own part, pretend to infallibility; though I can at the same time with truth declare that I have never spared any pains in endeavoring to detect falsehood and perjury, and have had some very notable success that way. In this case, however, one of the most simple girls I ever saw, if she be a wicked one, hath been too hard for me. Supposing her to be such, she hath indeed most grossly deceived me, for I remain still in the same error; and I appeal in the most solemn manner to the Almighty for the truth of what I now assert. I am at this very time (on this 15th day of March, 1753) as firmly persuaded as I am of any fact in this world, the truth of which

solely depends on the evidence of others, that Mary Squires is guilty of the robbery and cruelty of which she stands convicted; that the *alibi* defence is not only a false one, but a falsehood very easy to be practised on all occasions where there are gangs of people, as gipsies, &c.; that very foul and unjustifiable practices have been used in this whole affair since the trial; and, that Elizabeth Canning is a poor, honest, innocent, simple girl, and the most unhappy and the most injured of all human beings. It is this persuasion alone which occasioned me to give the public this trouble; for, as to myself, I am, in my own opinion, as little concerned in the event of this whole matter, as any other man whatever.’

The following extracts are from Dr. Hill’s pamphlet, entitled ‘The Story of Elizabeth Canning considered:’—

In order to show the improbability of Canning’s whole story, he says, ‘Some days after January 1, when she is said to have been carried away, I find the following advertisement in the most universal of the daily papers, *viz.* Daily Advertiser, January 6.

“Whereas Elizabeth Canning went from her friends, between Houndsditch and Bishopsgate, on Monday last, the first instant, between nine and ten o’clock: Whoever can give any account where she is, shall have two guineas reward, to be paid by Mrs. Cannon, a sawyer, in Aldermanbury Postern, which will be a great satisfaction to her mother. She is fresh-coloured, pitted with the small-pox, has a high forehead, light eyebrows, about five foot high, eighteen years of age, well set; had on a masquerade purple stuff gown, a black petticoat, a white chip hat bound round with green, a white apron and

handkerchief, blue stockings, and leather shoes.

“*Note*—It is supposed she was forcibly taken away by some evil-disposed persons, as she was heard to shriek out in a hackney-coach in Bishopsgate Street. If the coachman remembers any thing of the affair, by giving an account as above he shall be handsomely rewarded for his trouble.”

“Why supposed to be taken forcibly away? Are these transactions common? or was there any thing in the present case to authorize such an imagination? To what purpose should she be forced away? She is not handsome, so that the design could not be upon her person; and certainly the dress that is described so largely could not tempt any one to carry her off to rob her; nor was it necessary, for that might have been done where she was seized; nay, and in the latter accounts we are told it was done there.

“Who heard her shriek? or what is become of the hackney-coach part of the story? No syllable has been since uttered of it. Who should know the voice of a servant of no consideration, calling in a strange part of the town from a coach? What must the ruffians have been doing who suffered her to shriek? or who that heard such a voice, and did, or that did not, know the person, would not have stopped the carriage? How came he who heard so much not to call persons to assist him? There are enough in the streets at ten o'clock. Or where's the coachman? for coaches do not drive themselves, and certainly he might be found to justify the story.

“If a coach carried her, where therefore is the driver of it? or, if she was dragged along, how did the people who were taking all this

pains, and running all this hazard to no sort of purpose, get her undiscovered through the turnpikes?

“From the day of this publication, by which the world was informed that such a girl was carried off by ruffians (a fine preparative for what has followed), we hear no more of her till her return at the end of twenty-eight days; when she tells her absurd, incredible, and most ridiculous story; a piece of contradictory incidents, and most improbable events.

“It was not on the credit of this story that the unhappy creature was condemned. Let us not imagine courts of justice swallow such relations. It was on the most full account, given by one who declared that she had seen the whole transaction of which the Court was concerned to judge; one, who, being a stranger to the accuser, and a friend of the persons accused, declared she saw the robbery. This was an evidence which must have been allowed by any jury of judicious and unbiassed men.

“We are now reviewing that account in a very different light; we have now been let into the secret of its origin: we have seen her since voluntarily declare that it was false and forged; not in part false, but in the whole; and that it was the offspring only of her terrors; and, actuated from the influence of the same apprehensions, she confirmed it at the trial: she now declares it, freely and voluntarily declares it, to have been all a perjury.”

After mentioning several apparent improbabilities in Canning's narrative—of her being dragged so many miles, of her not endeavoring to escape before, of her walking home in the weak condition she was said to be in, and no body's taking notice of her upon the road, &c. he



observes, that the description she gave of the room, in which she said she was confined, at her first examination before the sitting alderman, was very different from what it really was, and as she afterwards described it.

'Some who went first down,' says he, 'neighbours and men of credit, had heard her account of the room; and, when they saw it, were convinced that her description did not at all belong to it: they gave her up, and they are to be found to say so. Some who were too officious, eager to have the story true, because themselves believed it, got there before her also: these, when they had heard the objections, rode back part of the way to meet her, and, after some conversation with her—after, for I may have leave to conjecture from the circumstance, asking her if there was not hay there; that is, in effect, after telling her there was, and that she should have said so—rode back, and, with huzzas of triumph, cried they were all right yet, for she said now there was hay in the room.'

'We are asked, how should she know this house as she approached it? Nobody ever heard that she did know it as she approached it: and for the famous question, how she could, among a number of people, fix upon the gipsy whom she had particularly described before as the person who had robbed her? the answer is a very fatal and severe one; it is, that she had not particularly described her before. It is palpable she never spoke of her even as a gipsy, though no woman ever possessed the colour and the character of that singular people so strongly: nor had she given any particular account of her face; which, had she ever seen it before, must have been remembered; for it is like that of

no human creature: the lower part of it affected most remarkably by the evil; the under lip of an enormous thickness; and the nose such as never before stood in a mortal countenance.'

Then, speaking of Hall's confession before Justice Fielding, he says, 'Let me ask you, Sir, were these the circumstances of that confession, *viz.* that it should be free and voluntary, without fear and constraint? I need not ask you: your pamphlet contradicts it. She refused to confess any such thing; you tell us so yourself, throughout six hours of strong solicitation, and she consented to do it at last. Why? She says, and you say the same—it was because she was else to be prosecuted as a felon.'

'But their informations, you repeat, are so alike! Sir, I must tell you they are too like! Indeed the term like is improper: they are not like, for they are in effect the same; and, farther—which is an observation that must sting somewhere, though these their informations were thus like, their evidence upon the trial was not so.'

'Hall had heard Canning's story many times. She had heard it from Canning's own mouth at Enfield on Feb. 1; on the same day also she says she heard it at Mr. Tyshmaker's, as doubtless she did; for eight days after this the story was published in the newspapers, to raise subscriptions. Hall can read; or, if she could not, she had ears.'

'Now let us see when it was she gave this weighty information. 'Twas after all this opportunity of knowing what it was Canning said; it was on Feb. 14, and not before, that she was examined by Mr. Fielding. There, as himself informs us, she was under examination for six hours; and then, to use his own words, after many hard

struggles and stout denials, she did — what? Why she put her mark to an information; and swore what it contained was true. What it contained was the same with that which had before been sworn by Canning. The same person drew both; and that not the magistrate, no, nor his clerk: who then?— why the attorney who was engaged to manage the prosecution.

‘Canning’s story appeared improbable; all rested upon the evidence of Hall: and there was given to you, against that evidence, the oath of Judith Natus, one not belonging to the gipsies, an honest woman, wife of an honest laborer, who, with her husband, lay in the very room in which the girl pretended to have been confined during the whole time of that alleged confinement. Here was the evidence of a person of honest character, and quite disinterested, against that of Hall. This oath, you will find, was truth: it will be seen, it will be proved, that it was so, by evidence the most incontestable. In the mean time let me ask the whole world whether this free oath of an unconcerned person, or the hardly obtained information of one who was interested, and had the alternative only of that information or a prison, deserves the most respect? These persons were subpoenaed, and they were ready at the Court on the trial; but the mob without doors had been so exasperated against all that should appear on the part of the accused, that they were prevented from getting in, and treated themselves like criminals.

‘Such is the state, and the exact state, of that case, into which a suspicion of misinformation at first, a confession of perjury afterwards, and accumulated proofs in support of that confession, have engaged the lord-mayor of London to inquire

even after the trial. The inquiry has answered all his lordship’s expectations; the evidence is clear, and the proof is full. But for this his impartial inquiry, made for the sake of justice only, he was attacked by calumny and private prejudice: the envious hint he must be interested in it; while others wish the convict guilty, that he may sink into an equality with them. That magistrate is too well informed of the respect due to his sovereign not to lay all the evidences first before him; afterwards the whole world will see them: and it is on certainty and knowledge I speak, who now tell them, that, when they do see them, they will be convinced at full.’

We should hardly be thought to exceed the truth if we were to say that ten thousand quarrels arose from, and fifty thousand wagers were laid on, this business. All Great Britain and Ireland seemed to be interested in the event; and the person who did not espouse either one party or the other was thought to have no feeling. The first question in the morning was ‘What news of Canning?’ and the last squabble at night was whether she was honest or perjured: but this, however, could never be determined; and it will probably remain a mystery as long as the world endures.

Elizabeth Canning was transported to New England on the 31st of July, 1754, having first received some hundreds of pounds collected by the bounty of her friends and partisans.

She was afterwards reputably married in America; and the newspapers gave notice that she since died in that country.

From this story we may learn two useful lessons, on the fallibility of human testimony, and the horrid

crime of perjury. If Canning was guilty, her crime was of the most enormous magnitude—that of endeavoring to swear away a life, in order to cover, perhaps, her own disgrace; for some persons thought that she had been debauched in her absence, and that the whole was a concerted scheme to conceal the truth. If she was innocent, what a variety of perjuries must have been committed by the opposite parties!

Upon the whole, we must end as

we began: this story is enveloped in mystery; and the truth of it must be left to the discoveries of that important day, when all mists shall be wiped from our eyes, and the most hidden things shall be made plain. In the mean time it is our duty to admire and adore those inscrutable decrees of Providence which can bring good out of evil, and answer its own wise and gracious purposes by means least apparent to finite comprehension.

### WILLIAM SMITH,

EXECUTED FOR POISONING HIS FATHER-IN-LAW AND TWO CHILDREN.

MANY instances have already been adduced, in the preceding pages, of the wonderful effects of conscience on a guilty mind; but in no case has this imperious instinct been more manifest than in the murderer whose crime we are about to record.

The contending powers of good and evil appear to have alternately had possession of his faculties; but the evil genius which guided him on to commit the foul crime, melancholy to relate, at length prevailed; he died denying a fact once confessed, and for which he virtually surrendered himself into the hands of public justice.

William Smith was a farmer, in good circumstances, at Great Broughton, in the county of York. His mother having married a second husband, one Thomas Harper, of Ingleby Manor, who had children, against his wish, he therefore resolved to rid himself of those whom he considered obtruders between him and his prospects from his late father's estate.

After forming several diabolical plans for cutting them off, and his resolution as often failing him, being one day in an apothecary's shop, purchasing some physic for his

horses, the evil spirit whispered him that the means were at hand, and he immediately asked for a little arsenic, to kill the rats in his barn. The apothecary, not suspecting a man of Smith's respectability meant the deadly powder for any other use, sold him two penny-worth.

The day chosen by this now-determined sinner to administer the poison was on the Good Friday of the year 1753, when, observing a large cake preparing, of which some neighbours had been invited to partake, unperceived, as he imagined, he mixed it with the flour, and thus it was served up to the table.

It providentially happened that the neighbours did not come to dinner, and none ate of the cake except Thomas Harper and two of his children, William and Anne.

Having made preparations for flight, the moment he found his wickedness had taken its desired effect, he set off for Liverpool, from which a suspicion arose that he was the perpetrator of the horrid deed.

The unfortunate people languished in excruciating torments until the next day, when they expired.



No sooner had Smith reached Liverpool than his conscience began to rebuke him, and, having no kind of employment, his existence became a burden to him; nor could he find the least respite until he returned to the very spot where he committed the murder, where he was immediately apprehended, and confessed his crime.

At the autumn assizes for the county of York, before Mr. Sergeant Eyre, Smith was, on his own

confession, the evidence of the apothecary, and a maid-servant, who saw him busy with the flour, with other corroborating circumstantial evidence, found guilty, and received sentence of death.

Immediately after execution, which took place at York on the 14th of August, 1753, his body was delivered to the surgeons for dissection. He left a young wife to lament his crimes, with an infant at her breast.

### JOHN HAMBLETON,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WHERE a number of soldiers are deemed necessary to assemble for the public welfare, it would be strange if there were not among them neither thief nor profligate. The best appointed regiments cannot always escape censure, from the villainies of a few individuals which disgrace their ranks, and throw an odium on what should ever be held 'the honorable character of a soldier.'

We shall have occasion, too often, to recount the outrages of soldiers belonging to the Guards; and which, at the same time, we acknowledge, it is impossible for their officers to prevent: yet we cannot believe that, among them, there are a tenth part of the number of villains to be found in the same number of men of the lower order of civil society.

The circumstances attending the crime for which Hambleton suffered, we are sorry to say, were an infamous disgrace to the character of a soldier, and shocking to humanity.

Wherever a soldier meets brave opposition, if victorious, he treats his fallen enemy with kindness; but this thieving poltroon, assisted by another dastardly fellow of his re-

giment, murdered their fallen adversary, after his making a noble struggle for his property.

Mr. Crouch, the murdered man, who was head cook to the Earl of Harrington, went, on the 17th of August, 1753, upon the business of his employer, to Chelsea, and, in returning through the King's Road, about nine o'clock in the evening, he was met by Hambleton and his associate, named Lattie, who, with horrid imprecations, demanded his money.

Mr. Crouch was a resolute man, and refused; upon which they fired two pistols at him, without effect. Being unarmed, he had recourse to a pocket-knife, which he opened, and told them to keep off; but they closed on him, in doing which he wounded Lattie in three places. The villains overpowering him, they threw him to the ground, and rifled his pockets of his money and his watch; but, not content with their booty, with which they might have escaped, they wrested the knife from his hand, ripped open his belly, then stamped upon his mangled body, beat him on the head with the butt-ends of their pistols, and left him weltering in his blood.

Early next morning some la-

borers going to their work discovered him still alive, and able to describe the robbers, with his place of residence, which was a small house in Green Street, Grosvenor Square, near his noble employer's mansion. Thither he was carried, where he languished in excruciating torments three days, and then died, leaving a widow and three children.

The murderers, from his description, were soon apprehended: Lattie had the wounds about him given by the deceased, who was able

to identify them the day before his death.

Hambleton was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to die; but Lattie died of the wounds given him by the murdered man before the time of his being arraigned, thus robbing the gallows of its just due.

The surviving murderer was executed at Tyburn December the 10th, 1753, professing himself a Roman Catholic, and his body given to the surgeons for dissection.

### JOSHUA KIDDEN,

EXECUTED FOR A ROBBERY OF WHICH HE WAS INNOCENT.

ALL the laws of man are liable to abuse, but none more than that which gives the prosecutor an interest in the conviction of the accused. Men paid to prevent crime have been too often found swearing away the lives of innocent persons.

The youth now the subject of our melancholy tale was in a superior rank of life to his innocent fellow-sufferers; and, like them, it will be found, had taken no part in the pretended robbery of which he was accused.

The father of Kidden was a reputable watchmaker in London, and, having given his son a classical education, bound him apprentice to an apothecary.

It however appeared that idleness, the mother of all ill, was very evident in the youth; hence he was soon discontented with culling simples and pounding roots. He now thought the watery element might better suit his lazy turn; and accordingly his indulgent parent procured him a situation as a petty officer in the royal navy, where he remained during six years; after which, returning to his paternal home, his father, fondly hoping that he had settled his mind to a

seafaring life, procured masters to instruct him in the theoretical parts of navigation, and every other branch of that art; but he neglected this opportunity, and hung about his father, an useless and expensive burden; yet we find no propensity in him to dishonesty.

At length, somewhat aroused from his apathy, he made an essay to earn his own bread, and, for that purpose, ranged himself among the porters at the end of Fleet Market; for he had neglected to acquire any trade or business.

Going one evening, after the toil of a hard day's work, to regale himself with the London laborer's most wholesome beverage, porter, he was unfortunately marked by the villain Blee, a conspiring 'man of blood,' who conceived him a fit object upon whom to exercise his hellish design.

Kidden, who had uncertain employ, told Blee that he was in want of work; and the latter, engaging to procure some for him, got him lodgings in an alley in Chick Lane, where he continued from Friday till the following Monday, when he was told that there was a job at Tottenham, to remove the effects of

a gentleman, which would otherwise be seized for rent.

At the time appointed Kidden and Blee went to Tottenham; and, having waited at a public house till the approach of night, Blee went out, with the pretence of speaking to the gentleman whose goods were to be removed; but, on his return, said that the business could not be transacted that night.

They now quitted the public house, and proceeded towards London, after Blee had given Kidden eighteen pence, as a compensation for the loss of his day's work. On the London side of Tottenham they observed a chaise, and a woman sitting on the side of the road near it. Kidden asked her if she was going to London: she replied in the affirmative; but he walked forwards, paying no attention to what she said, till he heard Blee call him back, demanding to know why he walked so fast. Kidden, turning back, observed that Blee was robbing the woman; on which he declined a nearer approach, disdaining to have any concern in such a transaction: but Blee, running up to him, said, 'I have got the money;' and would have prevailed on him to take half a crown; but this he declined.

Blee then desired Kidden not to leave him; and the latter staying two or three minutes, a thief-taker, named M<sup>d</sup>Daniel, rushed from a hedge, and, seizing Kidden, told him he was his prisoner.

The woman thus pretendedly robbed was one Mary Jones; and all the parties going before a magistrate, it was positively sworn that Kidden was the robber, and that he took twenty-five shillings from the woman; on which he was committed to Newgate.

Mary Jones, the woman supposed to have been robbed, lodged

in Brokers' Alley, Drury Lane; and the friends and relations of Kidden, assured in their own minds of his innocence, went thither to inquire after her character, which they found to be so totally abandoned, that they had no doubt but the whole was a preconcerted plot for his destruction.

When the trial came on, Mary Jones and two thief-takers swore positively to the unhappy lad, who was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die: and a report was industriously circulated that he had committed several robberies as a footpad; but this was only the effort of villainy to depreciate the character of an innocent man, in order to receive the reward for his conviction, which was actually paid.

After sentence of death was passed Kidden made a constant, uniform, and solemn avowal of his innocence. He told how the thief-takers had imposed on him; and his tale was universally credited when it was too late to save him from the fatal consequences of their villainous devices.

Repeated applications were made that mercy might be extended to the unhappy convict; but these were in vain—the warrant for his execution arrived, and he resigned himself to his fate in the most becoming manner, lamenting the present disgrace that his relations would undergo, but entertaining no doubt that the decrees of Providence would soon give ample testimony of his innocence.

He resigned his innocent life, greatly lamented, to the executioner, in the year 1754, after pathetically addressing the multitude, and declaring again his innocence.

From a comparison of the circumstances of the case of Kidden, and other miserable youths, whom this destructive gang, under pre-



tence of being thief-takers for the ends of justice, had given evidence against, we fear there is too much reason to believe that many more than those we have mentioned, fell victims to their crimes.

There is, however, this moral to be drawn, and an example set before us, in the relation of these fell deeds. They fixed upon idle youths

as their prey.—Thus our unthinking children may hence see that a watch is set upon idlers, and such as disobey their parents. In this case, the devil, who was personated in these thief-takers, could not have devoured the industrious apprentice and moral young man, nor have brought his friends to shame.



*Brown holding his Wife to the Fire till he caused her Death.*

### NICHOL BROWN,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

IN the account given of this man there is a savage ferocity which has not before come under our notice; for, though we read in Captain Cook's, and other accounts of circumnavigators, of their meeting with cannibals; and, further, that even civilized men, by the dire dint of the excruciating pains of hunger, have slain, and, with horrible compunction, eaten one of their companions, to support life in the rest;

yet where shall we find, except in this instance, a savage, in the land of civilization and of plenty, eat human flesh? After this it no longer remains astonishingly horrible that such a brute could force his wife into the fire, and burn her to death.

This atrocious monster was a native of Cramond, a small town near Edinburgh, where he received a school education. At a proper age

he was placed with a butcher in that city, and, when his apprenticeship was expired, went to sea in a man of war, and continued in that station four years. The ship being paid off, Brown returned to Edinburgh, and married the widow of a butcher, who had left her a decent fortune.

Soon after this marriage Brown commenced dealer in cattle, in which he met with such success, that, in the course of a few years, he became possessed of a considerable sum. His success, however, did not inspire him with sentiments of humanity. His temper was so bad, that he was shunned by all serious people of his acquaintance; for he delighted in fomenting quarrels among his neighbours.

Taking to a habit of drinking, he seldom came home sober at night; and, his wife following his example, he used frequently to beat her for copying his own crime. This conduct rendered both parties obnoxious to their acquaintance; and the following story of Brown, which may be relied on as a fact, will incontestably prove the unfeeling brutality of his nature.

About a week after the execution of Norman Ross, already mentioned, for murder, Brown had been drinking with some company at Leith, till, in the height of their jollity, they boasted what extravagant actions they could perform. Brown swore that he would cut off a piece of flesh from the leg of the dead man, and eat it. His companions, drunk as they were, appeared shocked at the very idea; while Brown, to prove that he was in earnest, procured a ladder, which he carried to the gibbet, and, cutting off a piece of flesh from the leg of the suspended body of Ross, brought it back, broiled, and ate it.

This circumstance was much talk-

ed of, but little credit was given to it by the inhabitants of Edinburgh till Brown's companions gave the fullest testimony of its truth. It will be now proper that we recite the particulars of the shocking crime for which this offender forfeited his life.

After having been drinking at an alehouse in the Cannongate, he went home about eleven at night, in a high degree of intoxication. His wife was also much in liquor; but, though equally criminal himself, he was so exasperated against her, that he struck her so violently that she fell from her chair. The noise of her fall alarmed the neighbours; but, as frequent quarrels had happened between them, no immediate notice was taken of the affair.

In about fifteen minutes the wife was heard to cry out 'Murder! help! fire! the rogue is murdering me! help, for Christ's sake!' The neighbours, now apprehending real danger, knocked at the door; but, no person being in the house but Brown and his wife, no admission was granted; and the woman was heard to groan most shockingly.

A person, looking through the key-hole, saw Brown holding his wife to the fire; on which he was called on to open the door, but refused to do so. The candle being extinguished, and the woman still continuing her cries, the door was at length forced open; and, when the neighbours went in, they beheld her a most shocking spectacle, lying half-naked before the fire, and her flesh in part broiled. In the interim Brown had got into bed, pretended to be asleep, and, when spoken to, appeared ignorant of the transaction. The woman, though so dreadfully burnt, retained her senses, accused her husband of the murder, and told in what manner it was perpetrated. She survived

till the following morning, still continuing in the same tale, and then expired in the utmost agony.

The murderer was now seized, and, being lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh, was brought to trial, and capitally convicted.

After sentence he was allowed six weeks to prepare himself for a future state, agreeably to the custom in Scotland.

He was visited by several divines of Edinburgh, but steadily persisted in the denial of his guilt, affirming that he was ignorant of his wife being burnt till the door was broke open by the neighbours.

Among others who visited the criminal was the Reverend Mr. Kinloch, an ancient minister, who, urging him to confess his crime, received no other reply than that, 'if he was to die to-morrow, he would have a new suit of clothes, to appear decently at the gallows.' Mr. Kinloch was so affected by his declaration, that he shed tears over the unhappy convict.

On the following day, August the 14th, 1754, he was attended to the place of execution at Edinburgh by the Reverend Dr. Brown; but to the last he denied having been guilty of the crime for which he suffered.

After execution he was hung in chains; but the body was stolen from the gibbet, and thrown into a pond, where, being found, it was exposed as before. In a few days, however, it was again stolen; and, though a reward was offered for its discovery, no such discovery was made.

It is impossible to express sufficient horror at the crime of which this man was guilty; and it is therefore the less necessary to make any remarks on his case, as no one can be tempted to think of committing a similar crime till he is totally divested of all the feelings of humanity. From a fate so wretched as this may the God of infinite mercy deliver us!

### JOHN POULTER, *ALIAS* BAXTER,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

This malefactor was the son of honest people, in indigent circumstances, residing at Newmarket, in the county of Cambridge; who, when he had nearly completed his seventh year, put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he was about thirteen years old, when he was engaged as an assistant to the grooms in the service of the Duke of Somerset. Having remained in this situation six years, he was hired by Lord John Cavendish, whose horses he attended about three years, and then entered into the service of Colonel Lumley, brother to the Earl of Scarborough. He was sent by this gentleman three times with

horses to France, and was considered as an honest and industrious servant.

Being of a temper that delighted in a change of situation, he entered on board a trading ship belonging to Bristol; and he discovered no inclination to vicious courses till he had made several voyages to the West Indies and North America.

The ship to which he belonged being paid off on the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, he connected himself with Mary Brown and Mary Davis, women of abandoned characters; and they, in conjunction with John Brown, persuaded him to join them in committing depredations on the public.



They directed their course towards Litchfield, and, upon their arrival there, went into a public house for refreshment. Being introduced to a parlour, Mary Brown observed a chest; and, the lid not being close, she put in her hand, and stole a sum of money, and several other articles of value.

Having obtained the above booty, the gang proceeded to Chester, where Poulter stole some plush, and sent for a tailor to make it into a suit of clothes. While the tailor was measuring him a pistol that was in his pocket accidentally went off, but fortunately no damage was done by the ball. The tailor carried the plush home, and then went to the mayor, to whom he communicated his suspicions. Officers were dispatched to examine Poulter and his companions; but, being apprized of their approach, they embarked on board a packet-boat, which conveyed them to Dublin.

Soon after his arrival in Dublin Poulter hired a public house, where he sold on an average five barrels of ale weekly, and other liquors in proportion. His great success in business induced him to make a resolution of entirely declining illegal pursuits; and to this he would, in all probability, have strictly adhered, had he not been unluckily compelled to renew his acquaintance with abandoned people.

General Sinclair had his pocket picked of a valuable gold watch, either in going into or departing from Leicester House; and two men, named Harper and Tobin, were suspected to be guilty of the fact, and committed to the Gatehouse. A desperate gang of twenty-four Irishmen rescued Harper; in consequence of which a proclamation, offering a reward for apprehending them, was issued; but they all escaped to Ireland. One

of the above gang, named James Field, who had been acquainted with Poulter, went up to him while he was standing at his door; and, after some conversation, they drank together.

On the following day Field took the whole gang to Poulter's house. He requested them to depart, and at other times endeavoured to dissuade them from frequenting his house, urging that their visits might be productive of very disagreeable consequences to him: but they disregarded what he said, and continued their meetings as usual. At length they were observed in the house by a messenger that had been dispatched in search of them from London, and taken into custody.

In consequence of the above affair Poulter absconded from his house in the night, and his stock of liquors and other effects were seized by the magistrates.

Poulter now intended to reside at Cork; but, not being able to get a house there that he thought would answer his purpose, he went to Waterford, and took a public house, which he kept about three months. His brewer in Dublin wrote him word that he might return without the least danger of molestation; and therefore he departed from Waterford, and took a house about two miles from the city, at a place called the Shades of Clontarf. His house being adjacent to the sea, he purchased a boat, and applied himself with so much industry to the business of a fisherman, that his weekly profits seldom amounted to less than three pounds.

Thomas Tobin being acquitted of the charge of stealing General Sinclair's watch, through defect of evidence, and learning that Poulter had struck into an advantageous line of life, he determined to visit him. In pursuance of this design,

Tolin and a woman with whom he cohabited travelled to Holyhead, and there embarked in the packet for Dublin. Poulter received them with great kindness, and entertained them with equal generosity; but entreated, in the most earnest manner, that they would not repeat their visits too frequently, nor make his place of residence known to their accomplices.

Though they had faithfully promised to comply with his request, they in a few days introduced several of their associates to Poulter's house, which, before many weeks had elapsed, became the receptacle for thieves of every denomination, by whom Dublin and its environs were infested.

Poulter still adhered to his resolution of gaining a livelihood by honest labour, and informed his unwelcome guests that he would permit them no longer to frequent his house. In revenge for this they concerted and put in practice a plan for effecting the ruin of Poulter.

Six pounds of smuggled tea being procured, one of the gang privately conveyed it into Poulter's boat, and then lodged an information against him; in consequence of which the boat was seized and condemned; and Poulter, though innocent, judged it expedient to abscond.

He embarked for Bristol, and on his arrival there was entirely destitute of money. From Bristol he proceeded to Bath, where he met with his former acquaintances, Richard Branning and John Roberts, who prevailed upon him to join them in committing depredations on the highway. They mentioned a man of property who lived at Towbridge, and frequently came to Bath to change bills; and it was resolved to attempt robbing him.

They met at Roberts's house, where the plan of the intended robbery was concerted, and then they repaired to the public house which was frequented by the gentleman of Towbridge; and observing him counting money, they concluded that they could not fail obtaining a considerable booty. However, they were disappointed; for the gentleman, suspecting their design, returned by a road which he had not been accustomed to travel, and by that measure luckily preserved his property.

They now proceeded into Yorkshire, and in their way committed several robberies. At the inn where they alighted at Halifax they were joined by a clergyman, whom they seduced to prick in the belt, by which stratagem they defrauded him of twenty-five guineas.

They now went to Stockport, in Cheshire, where they lay one night, and then travelled to Chester.—Putting up at a house kept by one James Roberts, who had formerly belonged to the gang, he informed them that the pack-horses with Manchester goods would pass in the evening; and it was resolved to steal one of the horses and the goods he carried. As the horses passed, Roberts pointed to that loaded with the most valuable effects, and advised his companions to go about a mile from the town, and drive the beast into the fields, adding that he would scarcely be missed by the carrier in less than two hours, in which time they might secure the goods and escape.

The horse they seized was not that pointed out by Roberts; and their booty consisted only of callimancoes. Finding himself separated from his companions, the horse neighed so loud and frequent, that they judged it necessary to gag

him, lest the noise should lead to a discovery.

They reached Whitchurch, in Shropshire, the same night; and, after refreshing themselves at a house notorious for the reception of robbers, cut the marks from the goods, and exposed them for sale in the market.

Having sold the callimancoes, they proceeded to Grantham, in Lincolnshire, and defrauded a farmer of that place of near sixteen pounds by pricking in the belt; immediately after which they set out for Nottingham, where they stole a silver tankard, and, after selling it to a shopkeeper in the town, proceeded to York.

Having stolen some plate from the inn where they put up, and committed several robberies in different parts of Yorkshire, they deemed it prudent to remove from that part of the country, lest they should be apprehended, and came to the resolution of joining their former associates at Bath.

Soon after their arrival at Bath the whole gang set out for Sandford-Peverel, in Devonshire, in order to be present at a great fair for cattle; and during their residence there they obtained considerable sums by pricking in the belt, and other infamous practices.

They next went to Great Torrington, where they defrauded a farmer of twenty pounds. Enraged by the imposition that had been practised upon him, the farmer took every opportunity of relating the particulars of the fraud; so that the whole neighborhood was alarmed, and in pursnit of the sharpers; and they were therefore under the necessity of dispersing.

Poulter and Brown directed their course to Exeter; and, having defrauded an inhabitant of that town of five pounds, proceeded to Crook-

horn, in expectation of meeting their associates: but on their arrival they learnt that two of them were in confinement, charged with fraudulent practices. This information occasioned the rest of the gang to make a precipitate retreat; and in their way to the north of England they obtained several sums by a variety of infamous stratagems.

They remained some months at York, Durham, and Newcastle; and, after defrauding a number of farmers, and some other persons, of money, they went to Bath, where they assumed the character of smugglers.

They had not been long at Bath before they determined to go to the next Blandford races in search of adventures. During the races one party attended the cock-pit each morning; some were upon the course in the afternoon; and others were employed in cheating the keepers of the booths. They were so successful in their respective departments of villainy as to amass a very considerable sum; and, on the conclusion of the races, they ordered an elegant dinner at the Crown tavern, in Blandford, whence they stole a portmanteau, containing eighteen guineas, four broad pieces, a large sum in Portugal pieces, some silver coin, a gold repeating watch, with superb appendages, several necklaces set with diamonds and other jewels, a great quantity of rich clothes, a pair of gold shoe-buckles, a gold girdle-buckle, a gold coral, and many other articles of value.

Immediately after the above robbery Poulter and Brown set out for London, and, having sold the effects to some Jews in Duke's Place, they joined their accomplices at Roberts's house at Bath, where the produce of their booty was divided.



The next expedition was to a fair held at Corsham, where Poulter stole a silver tankard, which he carried to Roberts's house.

They now went to Farringdon, in Berkshire, in order to wait there for the Coventry carrier, whom they had determined to rob. After waiting two days the carrier arrived; and when he left the town in the morning they followed him, and robbed him of effects to a considerable value.

They next rode to Newbury, where they fraudulently obtained four guineas, his horse, and watch, from an unsuspecting countryman; and then returned to their rendezvous at Bath.

They endeavoured to force open a house at Bath; but, being observed by a man in a state of intoxication, who was casually passing, he exerted the utmost strength of his voice to alarm the neighborhood, which occasioned the villains to decamp without effecting the intended burglary.

On the following morning Poulter and some of his companions went to Bristol, where they joined company with a countryman, and defrauded him out of twenty guineas, which he had borrowed of an acquaintance, who kept a shop in the neighborhood.

Their villainies had now rendered their characters so notorious, and their persons so well known, throughout the west of England, that they determined to decline their former practices, and adopt that of horse-stealing. To avoid detection, they were careful not to offer horses to sale in that part of the kingdom where they had stolen them; and they still continued to travel occasionally to Bath, where they spent a great part of their money in Roberts's house.

A customer to Roberts showed

him twenty pounds, saying he had just received it; and Roberts immediately pointed out the man to Poulter, informing him at the same time of the booty he might acquire by robbing him. Towards night the countryman mounted his horse, and was followed by Poulter, who, holding a tinder-box to him instead of a pistol, demanded his money, which was delivered.

Soon after the above robbery the gang went again to Bristol, and, watching an opportunity of lifting up the parlour sash of a gentleman's house, they stole several silver spoons, and some other articles.

One of the gang got unperceived into a watchmaker's house in the same city, while his accomplices waited without, in order to rescue him if he should be detected. He brought from the upper apartments many articles of value, besides a quantity of wearing apparel; and it was some hours before the robbery was discovered.

On the following night Brown secreted himself in a shed adjoining to a barber's house, into which he made a forcible entry about midnight, and was carrying off some wearing apparel, when he was heard by the barber and his apprentice. Upon the family being alarmed Brown got through the garret window to the roof of the house, and remained three hours concealed behind a stack of chimneys. Unable to escape by any other way, he at length resolved to attempt passing through the house; but, while upon the stairs, he was heard by the boy, who ran towards him with a knife in his hand, crying 'Thieves!' Alarmed by the boy, the barber's wife came; and, upon Brown assuring her that he had taken shelter in the house in order to avoid the pursuit of bailiffs, she informed him that he might remain there till he

could go home in safety ; but he deemed it prudent to seize the opportunity of making an immediate retreat.

During the ensuing fair at Bristol they robbed and defrauded several clothiers, and other dealers, of property to a very considerable amount. The produce of these effects being expended in Roberts's house, the gang determined upon an expedition into Staffordshire. While they remained in Staffordshire they stole several horses, which were taken to Roberts, who sold them at different fairs held at places adjacent to Bath.

An Irishman, named Bush, an intrepid and desperate fellow, who had acted as hostler to Roberts, was at length admitted to the gang ; and soon afterwards he set out in company with Poulter towards Towbridge, in Wiltshire, with a determination of committing robberies.

Meeting a chaise, Bush declared he would rob the passengers ; but Poulter objected, thinking his companion inclined to commit murder. At length he consented to rob the chaise, after it had been agreed that no cruelty should be exercised. It being nearly dark, Poulter thrust his hand through the glass of the chaise, not knowing that it was drawn up, and, it being terribly cut, he hastily withdrew it, and his pistol went off by accident. Bush, supposing the fire to proceed from the gentleman in the carriage, discharged his pistol, but without any particular aim. Poulter now called to his companion to desist ; and, after taking out of the chaise a child, which he kissed, and carefully set upon the ground, he robbed Dr. Hancock, of Salisbury, of a guinea and a half, six shillings, a gold watch, some child-bed linen, and wearing apparel belonging to his lady.

After the above robbery the villains adjourned to a public house, that had been long frequented by the gang, and produced the stolen effects to the landlord and his wife ; and the latter supplied them with a bag for packing the clothes in. The landlord then drew the charge from a fowling-piece, to furnish them with powder ; after which they melted a pewter spoon, and cast two bullets. Bush asking the woman if she was not terrified at seeing them load their pistols, she said that many pistols had been loaded in her kitchen, without giving her the least alarm ; adding, that they would do right to travel as far as they could before break of day, and, if they would inform her where they put up, she would transmit them news from Bath.

Leaving this house, they stole a horse at an adjacent farm, and proceeded to Exeter, where they sold the stolen effects to a man who had long carried on an illegal traffic with the whole gang.

In a short time after the above Poulter was apprehended in a public house on suspicion of having robbed Doctor Hancock ; and, being taken before a magistrate, he gave information against his accomplices, mentioning the several places to which they resorted, and recommending the most effectual measures for taking them into custody ; particularizing those who had been sentenced to transportation, and returned before the expiration of the term of their exile.

While he was under examination he advised that the discoveries he had made might be kept profoundly secret, observing that many persons connected with the gang lived in a reputable manner ; and he particularly requested that the messenger who was ordered to make inquiries at Bath might carefully con-

ceal his business from every person excepting the mayor. Notwithstanding this precaution, the messenger had not been at Bath more than an hour before the names of all the villains were universally known; and, on the following morning, printed lists of them were hawked about the streets. In consequence of this imprudent conduct Poulter's accomplices escaped, and the good effects which the public might have derived from his discoveries were, in a great measure, defeated.

Great part of the property stolen from Doctor Hancock was restored to that gentleman, who visited Poulter in prison, and assured him that he would not be a severe prosecutor; and told him that, if he should be convicted, he would, in all probability, be deemed an object deserving the royal clemency.

Notwithstanding the doctor's promise, he used his utmost endeavours to procure the conviction of Poulter; and even waited upon the judge, to prevent the time of his execution being prolonged. However, he was respited for six weeks.

During his confinement he wrote accounts of a great number of robberies in which he had been concerned in divers parts of the kingdom. His discoveries were judged to be of such public importance, that the corporations of Bristol, Bath, Exeter, and Taunton, and many private gentlemen, exerted their utmost interest in his behalf; and it was generally expected that he would receive a pardon, or that the sentence of death would, at least, be mitigated to that of transportation.

He was examined by a gentleman of the law, to whom he related the particulars of the robberies committed by himself and his accomplices, with but very trifling

variations from his confession before the magistrate, and what was recited in the papers written by him after his commitment.

Poulter behaved with a decency and moderation becoming his unhappy circumstances; but he was, notwithstanding, an object of the implacable enmity of the gaoler. Though he had paid an extraordinary price for the use of a bed, this inhuman villain would allow him only straw to lie upon, even in the most rigorous season of the year, when he was in a state of health that threatened his speedy dissolution.

The cruelty of the gaoler's treatment occasioned some gentlemen to write to him, desiring he would allow the prisoner a bed. It was imagined that the malicious representations of the gaoler induced a gentleman of great interest at court to intercept the royal mercy, which, it was generally believed, would be extended to Poulter.

A report being circulated that Poulter was to be executed on the 1st of March, he wrote to a gentleman from whom he had experienced many instances of humanity, requesting to be informed whether it was founded in truth, and complaining that the gaoler added to his distress by perpetually reminding him that he must inevitably fall a victim to the law.

Poulter's dread of being executed daily increasing, he determined to attempt breaking out of prison; and, having communicated his design to one of the debtors, on Sunday, the 17th of February, they forced an iron bar out of one of the windows, and escaped.

Poulter travelled as far as Glastonbury with one of his irons on; and, after disengaging himself from that incumbrance, he continued walking all night, although he was



extremely weak through long illness, and his legs were galled and swelled in a terrible manner. In the day they concealed themselves in a hay-rick, and agreed to direct their course towards Wales; but, being ignorant of the road, they on Tuesday morning found themselves at Wookey, near Wells.

Poulter was so excessively fatigued as to be unable to pursue his journey, and it was therefore agreed that they should take some repose. They went into an alehouse, where they slept till two o'clock; and they were preparing to depart, when a mason, who lived in the neighborhood, came to the house for some liquor, and, recollecting the person of Poulter, called to his journeymen to assist in apprehending him. He was secured till the next day, and then conducted back to Ivelchester gaol.

When he was lodged again in prison nine days of the time for which he was respited remained unexpired; but an express was dispatched to a member of parliament, requesting him to use his interest to obtain an order for his immediate execution. In consequence of this an order was issued, commanding the high sheriff to cause the sentence of the law to be inflicted on Poulter within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the express.

Poulter was greatly shocked upon learning that the warrant was received for his sudden execution; but he soon recovered his spirits, and endeavoured to atone for past offences by a sincere repentance. After receiving the sacrament in a very devout manner, he prayed with an appearance of great fervency, and expressed strong hopes of obtaining pardon from the Almighty, whose displeasure he had not incurred (however great his offences

in other respects) by the spilling of innocent blood.

He behaved in a very penitent manner, but still preserved a decent fortitude, at the place of execution. He solemnly declared to the truth of all he had related respecting his accomplices; and, after warning the surrounding multitude to avoid such practices as had proved the cause of his destruction, he prayed some time in a composed and fervent manner, and was then turned off.

John Poulter was hanged at Ivelchester on the 25th of February, 1755.

It is to be lamented that Poulter, through the villainy of his former accomplices, was deprived of the advantage that would have necessarily resulted from a reformation of conduct. Denied the opportunity of supporting himself by honest means, he was, in a manner, compelled to join in the iniquitous practices of his former associates; for he was conscious that, had he been hardy enough to oppose their designs, they would have effected his destruction.

Though this man's offences were great, we cannot but regret his being subjected to the utmost rigour of the law; since, to that public he had so highly injured, he made no inconsiderable reparation, by causing the most dangerous set of villains that ever infested these kingdoms to be dispersed.

Doctor Hancock visited the prisoner, and gave him hopes of life; but afterwards used every possible endeavour to hasten his execution. Thus he seduced the unhappy man to neglect a preparation for eternity, to which he labored to precipitate him 'with all his imperfections on his head.'

The conduct of the gaoler can-

not be mentioned in terms of sufficient abhorrence. What character can more provoke our hatred than the man who, instead of alleviating, insults distress; instead of calming a perturbed spirit, adds to the poignancy of affliction; and incapacitates a miserable wretch, tottering on the verge of eternity, for appealing to the Almighty with that steady and fervent zeal by which alone he can obtain forgiveness? As a contrast to this inhuman villain of a gaoler, we shall mention Mr. Dagg, who was keeper of Bristol prison during the confinement of the unfortunate Richard Savage, Esq. He was a man of strict integrity and universal benevolence; and his behaviour to Savage gave the ingenious biographer of that unhappy poet occasion for the following reflections:

'Virtue is undoubtedly most laudable in that state which makes it most difficult; and therefore the humanity of a gaoler certainly deserves this public attestation; and the man whose heart has not been hardened by such an employment may justly be proposed as a pattern of benevolence. If an inscription was once engraved *to the honest toll-gatherer*, less honours ought not to be paid *to the tender gaoler*.'

We shall here conclude with observing that guilt must ever be attended by wretchedness: perpetual fears and alarms will destroy the hope of future happiness; and we no longer consider life as valuable than while we are able to cherish the expectation that permanent felicity will reward the toils of the present hour.

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### — DAVIS,

EXECUTED FOR MAIL ROBBERY.

THIS man was a tallow-chandler in Carnaby Market, London, where he had some time carried on business with apparent credit, until his goods were distrained by his landlord for rent. On taking the inventory a pistol was found in the drawer of a bureau, with some parts of bank-notes, and several bills of exchange.

The Cirencester mail had been robbed above two years before, and, though the customary reward had been advertised for the discovery of the thief, no one was apprehended. A suspicion arising from the circumstance that a man with such property by him should suffer his goods to be seized, the contents of Davis's bureau were shown to an officer of the Post-office, who suspected the notes to have been taken out of the mail; but, lest he should

prove innocent, and the charge be detrimental to him, a stratagem was used to carry him before a magistrate, to answer for some broils in which he had lately been involved. There he was charged with robbing the mail, but which he denied.

When upon the point of being discharged, a person came to the office with a silver tankard found concealed in Davis's house, which had been advertised to have been purchased with one of the notes plundered from the mail, of Mr. Harding, in the Minorities.

Mr. Harding was then sent for, who swore that the prisoner purchased it of him; upon which Davis confessed that he knew the person who had robbed the mail, and who, he said, then lay under sentence of death in Newgate.

To this falsehood he was answered



that the person he described was sentenced only to transportation; upon which he turned pale, and was agitated. He was thereupon committed to prison, and a warrant of detainer lodged against the convict whom he had accused.

He was removed by writ of habeas corpus to Aylesbury, and on the 12th of March, 1755, brought to trial.

When asked, in the usual form, whether he was guilty or not guilty

of the charges laid in the indictment? he refused to plead till his irons were taken off. This the Court assented to, and he then pleaded 'Not guilty;' but, after a trial which occupied five hours, he was convicted.

On the 3d of April, 1755, he was executed at Gerrard's Cross, in Buckinghamshire, the place where he committed the robbery, and there hung in chains.



*Morgan burning the House, after murdering its Inhabitants.*

### EDWARD MORGAN, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THOUGH we have shown the perpetrators of this foul crime under the cursed impulse of rage, jealousy, avarice, and revenge, yet have we to adduce one, resulting more from wantonness than a propensity to thieving—a murder marked with the basest ingratitude and perfidy.

The hospitality of the Welch is proverbial; and their Christmas feasts are open to all visitors. What villain could pollute the festive board? Where, we would ask, could be found the man, who would suck the blood of his generous host and his family, and that host a near



relation? Sorry are we to acknowledge that such a monster have we found in a Welchman.

The circumstances which came out on the trial of Edward Morgan, at the assizes of Glamorgan, were these:—According to annual custom, he had been invited by Mr. Rees Morgan, of Lanvabon, his cousin, to spend the Christmas holidays. He had partaken of the first day's festivity, and retired to bed along with a young man, apprentice to Mr. Rees Morgan. No sooner had he laid his head upon the pillow, to use his own expression, than the devil whispered him to get up, and murder the whole family, and he determined to obey.

He first made an attempt on the apprentice, his bedfellow, but he struggled so far as to effect his escape, and hid himself. The murderer then provided himself with a knife, which he sharpened on a stone as deliberately as the butcher uses his steel.

Thus prepared, he softly crept to the bedchamber of his host and hostess, and cut their throats in their sleep; then he proceeded to the bed of their beautiful daughter, with whom the monster had but an

hour before been sporting and playing, and with equal expedition, and by the same means, robbed her of life!

Not, however, satisfied with causing this inundation of blood, he seized a firebrand, and proceeded to the barn and outhouses, setting fire to them all; and, to complete the sum of his crime, he fired the dwelling-house, after plundering it of some articles.

'The Gloucester Journal,' of the year 1757, describes the property consumed by fire on this melancholy occasion to have been 'the dwelling-house, a barn full of corn, a beast-house, with twelve head of cattle in it; and the farmer, his wife, and daughter, were either murdered or perished in the flames!'

It was at first conjectured that the unfortunate people had perished in the conflagration. Their murdered bodies, it is too true, were consumed to ashes, and the manner of their death was proved partly by what the concealed apprentice overheard, but chiefly from the murderer's own confession. He was executed at Glamorgan, April the 6th, 1757.

## ROBERT ALSOP, AND SIX SEAMEN,

CONVICTED OF A RIOT AND IMPRESSING A CITIZEN.

THE liberty of the subject is, by Magna Charta, declared sacred; yet the imperious call of war, for seamen to defend our island from a foreign foe, has rendered it expedient to seize seamen in the merchants' employ, and force them on board a man of war.

To supply a nation's call much may be urged on this violation; yet it is pregnant with great mischief to individuals, and no provision is awarded to the sufferer. A ship richly laden is ready to bend her

sails, to carry the industry of our countrymen to a market which cannot be found at home; and at the dead hour of night, even, indeed, as the anchor is weighing, a ferocious gang may board and carry off her seamen.

The ship, thus stripped of the means of ploughing the ocean, remains in port, week after week, waiting for hands, which are often unattainable, by reason of a press of seamen. She lays at the merchant's cost: no demurrage is

awarded him; no allowance made for the decay of the cargo; in fact, he is totally without remedy. His servants, the seamen, are forcibly carried off, often without even the solace of their chest, torn away from their wives and children, and compelled to serve against their inclination. But, replies government, private interest must give way to the public weal; and thus commerce, the very essence of our prosperity, is often cramped to feed ambition.

But, whenever this violence becomes indispensably necessary, those to whom this duty is imposed should pay some respect to persons, and perform their unpleasant duty with some degree of humanity. The present case exhibits a scene of wanton outrage.

A press-gang, in the year 1755, in a riotous manner forced themselves into the house of Mr. William Godfrey, a man of good repute, and a cooper of the city of London. They knocked him down, and dragged him through the streets, with only one slipper on, and thus forcibly put him on board a king's ship in the river Thames. There he was confined in the hold, among a number of other subjects, where there was a suffocating stench, the effects of which long endangered his life. Twelve hours was he thus confined, to the scandal, as the printed accounts of this lawless baseness of the time said, of all government, and in derogation of the rights and privileges of the city of London. At length, the lord-mayor interfering his authority, Mr. Godfrey was released, and his friends set about the laudable task of bringing those ruffians to condign punishment.

Robert Alsop, William Sturges, John Dodsey, Frederick Ofler, James Williamson, Charles Powell, and Benjamin Tidsdale, a part of

this press-gang, were indicted, and committed to prison.

Being brought to trial at the Guildhall of the city of London, Sturges and Dodsey having surrendered themselves, and pleading for mercy, were acquitted; but the others found guilty.

While the Court was deliberating on the punishment to be inflicted on them, some officers of government interceded, and prayed that their country might not long be deprived of their services against the French, then at war with us. In consequence of this, and the culprits, on their knees, suing for mercy, backed by Mr. Godfrey's generous forgiveness, they were only sentenced to ten days' imprisonment.

Various are the arts practised by those likely to serve the king, and seafaring men, to avoid the press-gang. An humorous device for this purpose was used at a place called Salt Coats, in the west of Scotland, during the last American war, where a company of young men and maids having met to be merry, an impress officer in the neighborhood thought it a fit opportunity to pick up some useful hands to serve his majesty.

Accordingly, with his gang, assisted by a party of soldiers, the barn in which they were dancing was invested. Their approach being discovered, the doors and windows were barricaded, and a resistance declared.

Being unwilling, however, to come to extremities while the girls were in danger, a parley was demanded and granted, and the women were to depart unmolested. In the mean time the young men and maids had changed clothes; and, when the press-gang and soldiers entered, they found, to their mortification, that the females, on that occasion, all wore the breeches!

JOHN BERRY, STEPHEN M'DANIEL, JAMES EGAN, JAMES  
SALMON, AND ——— BLEE,  
MURDERERS AND CONSPIRATORS.

WE should have supposed that these pages had already disclosed the horrid crime of murder under every hellish impulse of the mind ; but here we find the shedding of innocent blood carried on in a course of systematic wickedness.

When a nation has been long engaged in foreign wars, and then suddenly concludes a peace, what proves a national happiness is a sad misfortune to thousands of brave soldiers and seamen, who had long made

'The flinty couch of war  
Their thrice-driven bed of down.'

The peace of the year 1749 produced a greatly augmented calendar in each county gaol in the kingdom ; and, to prevent the great increase of robbers, government deemed it expedient to offer additional rewards for apprehending those, who, in certain cases, had been guilty of violation of the law.

It will hardly be credited that so diabolical a conspiracy could be engendered in the mind of man, as that of enticing innocent youths to commit a robbery, and then apprehending them, for the sake of a reward, thus making a very trade of human blood ; but yet this damnable plot was long successfully carried on, and many an innocent man fell a victim to the pretended violated laws of the country.

It will, by some, from the above comments on the effects of a peace, be naturally conjectured that the conspirators were discharged soldiers or sailors. No, thank God, the worst offence we have to charge them with, and those, perhaps, committed through the calls of distress, fall infinitely short of these men's crimes. In the hard hearts of thief-takers alone could such a

deed be planned, and by none less callous to humanity could such a murderous scheme to amass money be carried into execution.

The head, or captain, as they dignified him, was Berry, a runner, or, as commonly denominated, a 'thief-taker,' who lived at the end of what was then called George Yard, at the bottom of Hatton Garden, and Blee was his servant.

M'Daniel kept a public house in Holborn ; Egan was a shoemaker, and Salmon a leather breeches-maker ; and both lived in Drury Lane.

These villains, horrid to relate, conspired together in accusing innocent people of crimes which took away life, for the reward so offered. Various were the diabolical plans they laid for this purpose.

At one time they enticed two victims to join them in committing a highway robbery upon one of their own gang, a third was to purchase the stolen goods, and the other was to apprehend the intended victims, permitting his accomplice, who had been concerned in the robbery, to escape, and then to join the party robbed and the receiver in the prosecution. But if, through the information of the other two, the thief-taker, who proposed and assisted in the robbery, was apprehended, then, in order to preserve him, the prosecution was not supported.

These villains exhibited an accusation of robbery against two young men named Newman and March. Upon their trial they related the manner in which they had been seduced ; but the evidence of the thief-takers was so strong, that they were convicted, and suffered death.



A poor man, named Tyler, was met by one of the gang, who said he would make him a present of a horse, for which he had no further occasion. The unfortunate man joyfully received the horse from his apparently generous benefactor, by whom he was advised to take the beast to an inn in Smithfield, there to be taken care of till he should determine in what manner to dispose of him. Before he could reach Smithfield he was seized by Egan, who took him before the sitting alderman; and, it being sworn that he had stolen the horse, he was committed to Newgate, and soon afterwards hanged. In the year 1753 they charged an innocent man, named Woodland, with felony; and he was committed, and sentenced to suffer death; but he was so fortunate as to receive a pardon, on condition of transportation. The villains, however, claimed, and actually received, the reward, in consequence of their having prosecuted him to conviction.

Joshua Kidden, whom we have already mentioned, was the next who fell a sacrifice to their abominable artifices. It would be tedious to recount the particulars relating to the many people who suffered death through the false evidence of these atrocious villains; and especially as the several cases bear much similarity to each other. We shall now proceed to a narrative of the fact of which they were convicted.

The money obtained by the conviction of Kidden being nearly expended, they employed themselves in concerting new schemes of villainy for recruiting their finances. It was determined to employ a man named Blee, a fellow of abandoned principles, who had for some time acted as an assistant to Berry, in attending in the fields about Islington till he could decoy two idle

boys to consent to join him in a robbery.

They all held a meeting in an arbour belonging to a public house (the Sir John Oldcastle) in the neighborhood of Islington, where they appointed the time for committing the robbery; and that it should be near Deptford, on account of the inhabitants of Greenwich having advertised twenty pounds for the apprehending any highwayman or footpad, in addition to the reward allowed by parliament. Their wicked plan being settled, they separated; for, lest they should be suspected of holding an improper correspondence, they were particularly careful not to be seen together where there was a probability of their persons being known.

They afterwards met at the Bell Inn, Holborn, and there came to the following agreement: that Salmon, who was a breeches-maker by trade, should make two pair of breeches, and put them into a handkerchief, having a particular mark; that he should have a pocket-piece, a tobacco-box, with his name engraved on the lid, and some other articles which he could accurately describe; and that he should be robbed by Blee, in conjunction with any two boys he could prevail upon to join him.

On the following morning Berry directed Blee to go into Fleet Market in search of two boys, giving him threepence, that he might treat with gin those he should think most likely to comply with his proposal. Blee met with John Ellis and Peter Kelly, whom he treated with gin; and then departed, not doubting of their ready compliance, as he knew they had been guilty of picking pockets, and other mean offences.

Upon returning to Berry he received another threepence, with

orders to tamper with the boys; and, if they seemed likely to fall into the snare, to mention, that, if they would join him, a considerable booty in linen might be obtained at Deptford. Blee treated the boys a second time, and then proposed the robbery, in which they consented to become parties.

The gang met the next day at an alehouse in Holborn, and gave Blee money to treat the boys with liquor. M<sup>c</sup>Daniel, being suspicious that Blee had not made the progress he pretended, insisted upon seeing the intended victims; in consequence of which, he, accompanied by Berry and Blee, went to Fleet Market, where the latter pointed to the boys, who were then in a pea-cart.

After some debates, it was agreed that the horrid plan should be carried into execution on the following Monday. About nine in the morning Blee went in search of the boys, and took them to a public house in Little Britain, where they had bread and cheese and beer, which Blee paid for out of a crown he had received from his accomplices, for the purpose of treating them. From this house they went to the sign of the Bell, in the Borough, where the rest of the gang were to see them, in order to be convinced that they had not failed meeting. Kelly, seeing Berry sitting in a room at the Bell, and knowing him to be a thief-taker, was much alarmed; but his tranquillity returned upon being assured by Blee that he had no cause for fear.

Blee now took his two devoted companions to a house in the Borough Market, and gave them liquor till they were in a state of intoxication. They then adjourned to a field, where the boys slept some time; and, being awakened by Blee, they proceeded towards Deptford.

They went to the Ship alehouse at Deptford, where they had been but a short time when Salmon came in, and, pretending to be drunk, leant against the dresser, and said he was going to London.

When it was nearly dark Salmon went out of the house; and presently afterwards Blee desired the boys to take a walk with him. Salmon waited near the four-mile stone, as had been agreed; and when Blee, Ellis, and Kelly, came within sight of him, the former said, 'There is the old breeches-maker that was so drunk at the Ship;' and proposed to rob him, to which the others consented.

Kelly asking Salmon what he had under his arm, Salmon said he would readily deliver his property, begging that he might not be treated with cruelty, and then delivered his bundle to Blee, who gave it to Kelly; after which he gave his money, which was in a tin box: after searching his pockets, and taking his tobacco-box, they retreated towards London.

By the direction of Berry, Blee conducted the lads to a lodging-house in Kent Street; and the next morning met them at the Spread Eagle in the Borough Market, where they had ate and drank on the preceding day. Blee now went to the White Bear, and informed Berry, Egan, and Salmon, where he had left the boys; and presently after returned with some lamb's liver for breakfast, and found Egan sitting in the box with them. He whispered to the lads that the man (Egan) was a dealer in old clothes, and would probably purchase the breeches. Blee asked him to buy the breeches, for which he offered five shillings, giving one shilling as earnest, and saying he would soon fetch the rest of the money.

Egan now pretended that he had

lost his tobacco-box; on which that taken from Salmon was offered to him, and he purchased it for a quart of beer. Egan now returned to the White Bear; and presently after Blee, under pretence of going to be shaved, called upon his accomplices at that house, and then proceeded through the city to Uxbridge.

Egan went again to the Spread Eagle, but, in order to detain the lads, urged the absence of Blee as an excuse for not immediately paying the four shillings. In a few minutes M<sup>d</sup>Daniel entered, and, saying he had a warrant against Ellis and Kelly, seized them, and, taking a rope from his pocket, tied them together.

M<sup>d</sup>Daniel now dispatched a messenger for Salmon, and, when he came into the house, turned to Egan, asking him what was contained in the handkerchief under his arm; on which he, with an affected abruptness, said, 'What is that to you? My bundle contains my own property, which I have but just purchased.' M<sup>d</sup>Daniel insisting upon seeing the contents of the bundle, it was opened; when Salmon claimed the breeches, saying he had been robbed of them. In consequence of this Kelly and Ellis were searched, and a knife, a pocket-piece, and some other articles, being found upon them, and claimed by Salmon, they were taken out of the house, in order for examination before a magistrate at Greenwich. M<sup>d</sup>Daniel used every argument in his power to persuade the boys to confess themselves guilty of the robbery, and promised, if they would comply, to exert his utmost endeavours to save their lives; but they persisted in a refusal. Upon reaching Greenwich all the parties went into a public house for refreshment, and then went before a magistrate,

who committed the prisoners to Maidstone gaol.

On the way to Maidstone they related to the constable who had charge of them the manner in which they had been seduced by Blee; and, on his return, he stated the particulars to Mr. Cox, the high-constable of the hundred, who, having heard that Blee and M<sup>d</sup>Daniel were acquainted, entertained a suspicion that some villainy had been practised with respect to the youths, and he therefore caused Blee, to be apprehended. Blee, being taken to the magistrate at Greenwich, acknowledged all the particulars respecting the wicked transaction, and his confession being taken in writing, he affixed to it his signature.

The time for holding the assizes being arrived, Mr. Cox, having a warrant for apprehending Berry, Salmon, M<sup>d</sup>Daniel, and Egan, went to Maidstone, having Blee in custody. Mr. Cox waited till the conclusion of the trial, but had no sooner heard the foreman of the jury pronounce the prisoners guilty, than he caused the four iniquitous accomplices to be taken into custody. They obstinately persisted in declaring themselves innocent; and, even when confronted with Blee, denied having the least knowledge of him: but, on the following day, they severally requested to be admitted evidences for the crown: in this neither of them was indulged, the evidence of Blee being deemed sufficient for their conviction.

They were removed to London, in order for trial, as being accessories before the fact. The jury were not able to determine whether the prisoners came within the description of the statutes fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary, or third and fourth of William and Mary, and therefore referred the case to the decision of the twelve judges.



The special verdict being brought to a hearing before the judges in the hall of Sergeants' Inn, counsel was heard on both sides, and it was unanimously determined that the offences charged against the prisoners did not come within the meaning of the statutes above mentioned ; but orders were given for indicting them for a conspiracy.

An indictment being found against them, they were again put to the bar at the Old Bailey, and, the evidences exhibited against them on their former trial being recapitulated, the jury pronounced them guilty, and they were sentenced to be punished in the following manner: Berry and M'Daniel to stand on the pillory once at the end of Hatton Garden, in Holborn, and once at the end of King Street, in Cheapside ; Salmon and Egan to stand once in the middle of West Smithfield, and the second time at the end of Fetter Lane, in Fleet Street ; and all to be imprisoned in Newgate for the space of seven years, and upon the expiration of that time not to be discharged without finding sureties to be bound in the penalties of a thousand pounds each for their good behaviour for the seven following years.

March the 5th, 1756, M'Daniel and Berry were set on the pillory at the end of Hatton Garden, and were so severely treated by the populace that their lives were supposed to be in danger.

Egan and Salmon were taken to Smithfield on Monday, the eighth of the same month, amidst a surprising concourse of people, who no sooner saw the offenders exposed on the pillory, than they pelted them with stones, brick-bats, potatoes, dead dogs and cats, and other things. The constables now interposed ; but, being soon overpowered, the offenders were left wholly to the

mercy of an enraged mob. The blows they received occasioned their heads to swell to an enormous size ; and by people hanging to the skirts of their clothes they were nearly strangled. They had been on the pillory about half an hour, when a stone striking Egan on the head, he immediately expired.

This man's fate, however illegally he met his death, will cause but little sorrow ; yet, living under wholesome laws, we would not see punishment inflicted on even such a wretch as Egan, except through the sentence of a Court.

The sheriffs fearing that, should the survivors be again exposed to the vengeance of an enraged people, they would share the fate of their companion in iniquity, the remainder of the sentence of pillory was on that account remitted ; but the length of their sentence of imprisonment, added to the great amount of the sureties for their good behaviour after the expiration thereof, might have been considered tantamount to imprisonment for life ; a fate well suited to such mischievous, hard-hearted, and unrelenting villains.

They, however, soon died in Newgate, thus ridding the world of the bulk of this terrific gang.

Though the offences of the above men were attended with the most aggravating circumstances of wilful and premeditated murder, they were perpetrated in such a manner as not to be cognizable under the penal law : but they had ' all the guilt of blood ' to answer for at that high tribunal, where, as they had lived without mercy, and died without repentance, they could have no hope of escaping that most dreadful punishment denounced against those who violate this divine command, ' Thou shalt do no murder.'

## CHRISTOPHER WOODLAND,

CONVICTED OF STEALING.

THE cases of the wretched men who fell victims to the horrid plots of the thief-takers already mentioned show what variety of arts had been adopted by them in seeking the innocent blood of their fellow-creatures.

The fate of Woodland is, however, deserving of much less pity than that of Kidden: the former consented to join in a burglary, which, though a trap laid for him, proved that he was a thief, ready to join any hardened gang of robbers.

They thus practised upon Woodland:—Berry, the head of the gang, hired a single room of one Mr. Eveness, on Saffron Hill, ostensibly for James Egan, another of the gang. They put into this room some mean articles of furniture, and thus made the place suited to their purpose. Then Berry, McDonald, Egan, and Mary Jones, who had now become associated with them, ordered Blee to procure a victim, who might join some of them in robbing this room.

Blee, ever the drudge of the gang, pitched upon a half-witted fellow, the immediate subject of the present inquiry.

Egan, who had been a shoemaker, took possession of the room,

and hammered upon his lapstone; not to mend soles, but to make souls arise from the bodies of his victims. Blee intoxicated Woodland, and then proposed what he called a plan to ensure the road to wealth. The sot, delighted with the offer, readily joined him in breaking into the shoemaker's room, where he was assured a large booty might be obtained.

Woodland committed the burglary, and was followed by Blee. He seized some bundles of clothes, placed there for the purpose, and was advised by his deceitful companion to offer them for sale to Mary Jones. The gang rushed into her apartment, seized Woodland, but permitted Blee to escape. They took him before a justice of the peace, swore to the burglary, and consequently he was committed to Newgate.

As no other offence appeared against him, and from his not appearing an old offender, the capital part of the indictment, the burglary, was not pressed; and he was found guilty alone of stealing.

He was consequently sentenced to transportation only, and sent to America.

BLI GONZALEZ, *ALIAS* JOHN SYMMONDS, *ALIAS* SPANISH JACK,

EXECUTED FOR STEALING A SILVER TANKARD.

GONZALEZ was descended of reputable parents residing at Alicante, in Spain, who were exceedingly careful of his education, intending him for holy orders; but all their hopes in him were disappointed, for he absconded from school, and entered on board a man of war. Having remained some years in this station,

he engaged on board a ship of war belonging to England, and sailed up the Levant.

After staying some time at Alexandria, Smyrna, and other places, the ship put into Gibraltar, and was ordered to be laid up; in consequence of which he entered on board a Dutch vessel. He served

in several English privateers during the war; and, when peace was restored, joined one of the gangs of smugglers that infested the coast of Kent and Sussex.

His connexions among the English induced him to change his name to John Symmonds, by which appellation we shall hereafter distinguish him.

Having acquired a sum of money, he repaired to London, and formed an acquaintance with a number of people of both sexes, of the most wicked and abandoned characters.

Having spent his money in scenes of riot and intoxication, he obtained credit for divers small sums from different people, whom he amused by assuring them that he was entitled to prize-money, on the receipt of which he would pay them.

His creditors becoming importunate for their money, he formed the resolution of going again to sea; but, not being able to enter into such advantageous engagements as he expected, he became acquainted with an infamous gang of robbers, and joined in their iniquitous practices. They committed a variety of robberies in the fields near Stepney; but none of them were attended with circumstances sufficiently remarkable for recital.

As Symmonds was passing along Rag Fair, he was seized by a person whom he, in conjunction with other villains, had robbed the preceding evening. This event occasioned him to reflect on his dangerous situation; and judging that, if he continued his illegal courses, he could not long escape detection, he determined to give information against his accomplices.

He communicated his design to M<sup>r</sup>. Daniel, and accompanied him and other thief-takers one evening to a house where they were drink-

ing, when Mandevile, Holmes, and Newton, were taken into custody; but two others of the gang escaped through a window. Mandevile, Holmes, and Newton, were convicted on the evidence of Symmonds, and executed in October, 1751, at Tyburn.

For the apprehension of the three malefactors above mentioned the thief-takers received a reward of four hundred and twenty pounds, of which they allowed the evidence only ten pounds: and, by various contrivances, they kept him in custody till he had expended all but thirty shillings of that sum. They imagined that they might obtain further emolument through his means; and therefore endeavored to keep him in a state of poverty, that he might be the more readily induced to return to his former practices, expecting that he would betray his new accomplices into the fate suffered by Mandevile, Holmes, and Newton.

Symmonds had for some time lived on terms of great intimacy with Anthony and Emanuel De Rosa, the murderers of Mr. Farques, the particulars of whose unfortunate death we have already recorded. Having engaged to go on the highway with Dissent and Branch (executed for the murder of Mr. Brown), they called at his lodgings; but the girl with whom he cohabited dissuaded him from accompanying them. Upon seeing the watch and other property stolen from Mr. Brown, he regretted his yielding to the persuasions of the girl, and upbraided her as the cause of his losing a share of so valuable a booty.

The many robberies he had committed in London, and its adjacencies, having rendered him so notorious that he thought himself in great danger of being apprehended,



he determined to go into the country. Having travelled to Rochester, he formed an acquaintance with a fellow named Smith, who was publicly known to live by felonious practices.

Symmonds and Smith went to a public house in Rochester, and, while they were drinking some punch, found an opportunity of concealing a silver tankard, which they carried off unperceived. On the following day they were apprehended, and committed to Maidstone gaol; Symmonds to be tried for stealing the tankard, and Smith to appear as evidence for the crown.

While Symmonds was under sentence of death he acknowledged that, till he was convinced the term of his life was nearly expired, he had not reflected on the most important consequences that would result from his iniquitous proceedings; and that, if he had escaped conviction, he should have returned to his usual practices. He appeared to repent of his former wickedness with unfeigned sincerity, and expressed hopes of forgiveness through the merits of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

From the prison to the place of execution he was seriously employed in prayer, and when under the gallows he warned the people to guard against following such courses as produced his destruction. After some time spent in devout prayer

with a reverend divine, the executioner put in force the sentence of the law, at Maidstone, on the 18th of April, 1756.

The case of this offender should convince us that unhappy consequences will arise from the indulgence of vicious dispositions, and that habits of vice are not to be eradicated but with difficulty.

Symmonds was fearful of being apprehended; but yet he could not collect sufficient resolution to abandon a way of life attended by continual danger and anxiety, although he was conscious that the wages of honest labour would have been equal to the gratification of every reasonable desire.

Intemperance too frequently leads to crimes of greater enormity. Those who do not abhor the company of people abandoned in principle are in imminent danger of being seduced to copy their example; for, by familiarizing ourselves to scenes of dissipation and infamy, they will gradually become less disgusting; and such is the frailty of human nature, that, when we so affront the dignity of virtue as to look upon vice with indifference, we sink into the latter by an easy transition; while our endeavours to soar towards the former are but feebly exerted, and are repressed by such obstructions as cannot be surmounted but by uncommon efforts of resolution.

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### **LIEUTENANT JOHN LANDER,** **EXECUTED FOR MURDER.**

SOME of the youths designed for the army, the instant they mount the cockade, are vain enough to imagine that their commission gives them the ascendancy over civil men; in short, that scarlet makes them a superior kind of beings; and,

thus self-sufficient, they assume an *hauteur*, which, instead of giving them that importance they would attain, serves only to render them objects of contempt. If, in the present day, such mistaken subalterns may be found, we can only

assure them that modesty of behaviour and diffidence alone will make them respected by the peaceful inhabitants of the town where they may be quartered.

John Lander was a lieutenant in the garrison of Chatham, and, having just received a month's pay, agreed with another officer, wild and unthinking as himself, to set off to London.

For this purpose they hired a post-chaise, and ordered the post-boy to drive at full speed, or they would run him through the body. The boy, thus intimidated, whipped the poor horses, the first stage, until he broke their wind, which proved infinite sport to the inhuman fellows whom they dragged after them.

At Dartford they changed horses, and no sooner were they clear of the town than they repeated the

word of command to the fresh boy, who accordingly urged the poor horses to their speed. At the foot of Shooter's Hill he slackened his pace, when they vociferated to him to drive at the same rate as before. On his answering the horses could not gallop up the hill, they jumped out of the chaise, and one of the degraded officers knocked the poor boy down, when Lander, drawing his sword, ran him through the body with such force, that it actually pinioned him to the ground.

This ungovernable and base transaction of course impeded their journey. Instead of revelling in London, they were sent to Rochester gaol, and brought to trial, when Lander was found guilty of wilful murder; and at Pennenden Heath, in Kent, on the 16th of August, 1756, underwent the sentence of the law.

## WILLIAM CANNICOTT,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WILLIAM CANNICOTT was about forty years of age, and had been a livery servant from a youth, though his parents, who were substantial people, would fain have had him learn a trade.

When he was about twenty years old he married Dorothy Tamlyn, a woman near forty years of age, with whom he had lived fellow-servant; and soon after he set her up in a little haberdasher's shop, in Boswell Court. This shop she kept near ten years, and Cannicott, being then servant to the late Admiral Matthews, took a house for her in East Street, and furnished it to be let out in lodgings.

Till within the last three years of their lives he said they lived peaceably, if not happily, together; but it then happened, that, in his absence, and without his knowledge,

she sold two suits of his best clothes, though she had no reasonable pretence or provocation; for he constantly gave her all his money, and she received, without any account, the profits that arose from the house. Cannicott was naturally passionate, and, coming in haste one day to put on a suit of these clothes upon a particular occasion, he was so exasperated to find they had been sold by his wife, that he swore he would never come home to her any more.

It is probable that this incident only gave colour to break a connexion which he had no inclination to continue; for he kept the resolution which he had declared in his passion, after that passion had subsided; and when he was next out of place, which happened soon afterwards, he took himself a lodging in a distant part of the town,

instead of going home to his wife, though he still continued to give her his money.

In this new neighborhood he was of course considered as a single man; a mistake that he was rather desirous to countenance than correct, because he knew that, as a single man, he was more likely to get into place than as married; and, indeed, he was soon after hired to a gentleman in Cavendish Square, who declared that he would not hire a married man; so that he was from that time under a kind of necessity to deny that he had a wife. After the first deviation from truth a man is almost necessarily, though insensibly, led to deviate farther and farther from the straight path at every step. As the women were less upon their guard against him, he was encouraged to indulge himself in the pleasure of such addresses as would not otherwise have been permitted; and thus engagements are often brought on which were never formally designed, and connexions are gradually strengthened merely because the difficulty of breaking them gradually increases. Among Cannicott's fellow-servants there was a young woman that waited upon his master's daughter, to whom he found a secret pleasure in recommending himself by many little acts of kindness, with which he saw she was pleased, and which he therefore repeated with greater assiduity and delight, though he declares he had then no design to seduce her, either as a mistress or a wife; yet his regard for her grew every day more tender, as he became more acquainted with her. He loved her, he says, not only for her person, but for her mind, which was continually improved by the free conversation of her amiable lady. Still, however, he avoided every thing that had a direct tend-

ency to make him be regarded as a lover; but there happened two incidents, which, joining with his inclinations, and the facility with which he saw it might be gratified, overbore all his resolutions. As Love is always vigilant and suspicious, he discovered that his master had a design upon her virtue, and that at the same time she was addressed by a young man, who would have married her, and whom he thought she would consent to marry if he did not profit of the influence he had over her by soliciting her for himself. In this situation he determined to gain her if it was possible, let the consequence be what it would. From this time his courtship commenced, and the girl, sincerely believing he had no other connexion, consented to have him. When this was agreed he resolved to leave his place, because the girl would not consent to conceal her marriage from her lady, nor would her lady part with her upon that account; and because his master would notwithstanding think it a sufficient reason to part with him. In pursuance of this scheme he hired himself to the Earl of Darnley, and on the third of June, 1754, he married his new wife at Marylebone chapel.

He went into Lord Darnley's place the same day, and his wife continued in her's a twelvemonth after their marriage, and might have continued there if her master had not pursued his design with more importunity than before, notwithstanding the declaration of her marriage, which, upon that account, as well as others, she had determined to make as soon as it should have taken place. As these solicitations made her very uneasy, she complained of them to her husband, and he advised her to give warning. She immediately followed his coun-



sel, but staid five months longer to oblige her lady, who was very desirous she should go with her to Bath. When they came back, and her master found that she was determined to go, and that another maid had been engaged in her stead, he was so enraged at his disappointment that he would scarce suffer her to stay long enough in the house to put her clothes together. When she was come away Cannicott hired a lodging for her as near him as he could, that he might spend every leisure minute in her company; and he perceived, he said, with unspeakable pleasure, an excessive fondness in her, which increased his own; and he believed it was impossible for any two persons to be more happy in each other than they were, except when his fears anticipated her discovery of his former marriage.

This event, so much dreaded, and so carefully guarded against, in a short time put an end to their felicity, and made the wife, who was deserted, yet more wretched than before. Such is the constant and the known effect of that officious malignity, which is curious to discover, and zealous to publish, breaches of the matrimonial contract; and it is still suffered, by a common confederacy in the guilt, to escape not only infamy, but censure, under the mask of integrity and friendship.

One Hobson, a coachman in Lord Darnley's family, knew Cannicott when he lived in another place, and knew also his first wife. It happened that the wife of this Hobson had become acquainted with some person in the house where Cannicott had taken lodgings for his second wife, and thus discovered the secret. His second wife, however, she did not know where to find, for she had removed into the country when

Cannicott went out of town with his lord, and was not yet returned; but word was immediately sent to his first wife, and she took every opportunity to haunt and reproach her husband with his new connexion. This, he said, made him extremely wretched, not only because it was irksome in itself, but because it kept him in continual dread and solicitude, lest they should find out his favorite, and interrupt her peace, as they had interrupted his. As his fears increased, so did his caution: he took another lodging for his young wife, whom he called Nanny, at a considerable distance, and required her never to call, on any pretence, where she had lodged before. With this request, he said, she cheerfully complied, without knowing or inquiring why it was made; but her old landlady, once meeting her by chance, dodged her home, and immediately acquainted Hobson and his wife where she lodged, who with great expedition sent Mrs. Cannicott to acquaint her with her situation. Here was an end to all the stolen felicity at once: Nanny, at the next interview, reproached him; but she reproached him, he said, with such tenderness as showed less anger than love. She was overwhelmed with grief, and, as often as she could find words, she entreated that he would never attempt to see her more, but leave her to struggle alone with her misfortunes, and endeavour to get into another place. He could not consent to leave her, but he promised to procure her a place. This, indeed, he attempted, but without success; for it was necessary to refer to her last master for a character, and he, besides telling that she was married, suggested several faults that might conceal the true reason why she left the place. She then urged him to

let her go abroad; but this he opposed with the utmost vehemence, and declared that he would destroy himself if she attempted it.

She had twice removed her lodgings, and was still followed by Mrs. Cannicott, who acquainted the neighborhood with her story. Nanny, therefore, would not suffer Cannicott to visit her in her lodgings, where it was known she could not be his lawful wife; and, though he persuaded her sometimes to meet him early in the morning, yet, as it was chiefly in the street, that afforded him no pleasure.

Hobson and his wife in the mean time fomented the difference between Cannicott and his first wife, telling her that he had received his wages, and urging her to solicit him for more money. This she did, with threats of prosecution if he refused, saying that she could and would hang him for having two wives.

As he believed this to be in her power, he restrained his aversion, for fear she should execute it; and therefore appointed to meet her on Thursday evening at the Red Lion, in Berkeley Square, to take a little walk. He declares that in making this appointment he had no design upon her life, but that being obliged to put up at a public house near Tottenham Court, by a sudden storm of thunder and rain, she asked him for money, which he refusing to give her, she had recourse first to expostulation, then reproach, and then threatening, which threw him into a dreadful rage, in the midst of which he broke away from her, and she followed him. That as they were going down stairs he saw a cord hang over the banisters, upon which he conceived a design to use it as an instrument to murder her, and therefore snatched it up and

put it into his pocket. When they got out of the house they went towards home, though the storm increased, and it thundered and lightened very much. Her passion had probably abated while his was at the height, as it often happens that the mind relents immediately after expressions of too keen reproach, which render a reconciliation on the other side for a time impossible. This appears to have been the case here; for she twice desired him to let down his hat, that the lightning might not hurt his eyes: this he refused the first time, but the last time seemed to consent, and, bidding her go on, took that opportunity not to flap his hat, but to prepare the cord for the murder; and it is surely a horrid aggravation of his guilt that he made the voice of kindness a signal to silence it for ever; and prepared to perpetrate the greatest injury against his wife while he seemed to be profiting by her solicitude to do him good. When he had formed the cord to his purpose, having tied a noose in one end, and passed the other end through it, he walked after her, and, coming behind her, threw it over her head, and drew it tight. She immediately seized it with her hands, and struggled so hard that the cord broke, and he feared she would overpower him. He then thought of his scissors, and, drawing them from the sheath, he thrust them many times into her throat and body; upon which her grasp relaxed, and she soon expired.

As soon as he saw she was dead his passion subsided in a moment, and he was so struck with the horror of what he had done, that he fell down in a swoon, though he cannot tell how long he continued in it: when he came to himself he began to think how he might con-

ceal the fact; he stripped her, and scattered her clothes, which he cut to pieces, in different places as he went along.

About ten o'clock he got home extremely wet, and, immediately retiring to the place where he cleaned his glasses, he washed the blood from the ruffles and sleeves of his shirt, and, putting it into the foul clothes' bag, went to bed. The next morning, his lordship being out of town, he went out and bought a new pair of scissors, having left the others in the field near the body; and he sold the ring and buckles, which he brought away: he did not return home till night, and was then told by his fellow-servants that Justice Fielding had sent for him upon a suspicion of murder, and advised, if he was

guilty, not to come in; but he insisted upon his innocence, and, when Mr. Welch came soon after, he was denied. Next morning, however, he went with the butler to Mr. Barnes, the high-constable, in order, as he said, to clear himself.

He was examined by the justices, and, though many circumstances appeared against him, yet the first day he confessed nothing; but the next day, finding that they had found out his second wife, and confined her upon suspicion that she had been accessory to the fact, he immediately accused himself, that she might be discharged; and, having fully disclosed the whole affair, he pleaded guilty at his trial, and died with great penitence and resignation at Tyburn, the 20th of September, 1756.

## THE REVEREND JOHN GRIERSON AND THE REVEREND MR. WILKINSON,

TRANSPORTED FOR UNLAWFULLY PERFORMING THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

A RIGHT had long been exercised by the clergy, in solemnizing marriage, without any previous ceremony, in certain places claiming privilege for that purpose.

This exclusive kind of spiritual monopoly was pursued with much eagerness by the lower order of the clergy, who carried on for a number of years a *marriage-making trade*, to the destruction of many thousands of the younger part of society, until Parliament interfered, and a law was passed, which enacted,

‘That, if a marriage should be solemnized in any other place within the isle, or dominion thereof, than in a church, unless by special license, or without having bans published, or license obtained from some person properly authorized, the marriage shall be void; and the

person who solemnized it, if he lawfully exercises any ministerial function within the isle, shall be transported for fourteen years; and, if he be a foreigner or a stranger, and not of the ministry of the isle, he is to be exposed, with his ears nailed to the pillory, on the next court of general gaol delivery after conviction, from twelve to one o'clock; and his ears are to be cut off, and he be turned into prison, until it shall be thought fit to release him, on his paying a fine of fifty pounds.’

Notwithstanding the severe penalties for offences against this law, priests were found hardy enough, under a little better bribe, to continue tacking couples together with as little ceremony as horses are yoked to the plough; in fact, one ceremony was just as *honest* as the other, and equally binding upon



the lady to 'love, honour, and obey.'

The avaricious fellow before us, John Grierson (for the bishop soon stripped him of his gown) had thus illegally, that is, after passing the act above quoted, pretended to marry upwards of fourteen hundred couple! whose offspring, consequently, were illegitimate; thus entailing misery on the parents, and disinheriting the children.

Grierson was only the deputy parson of the Savoy. The Reverend Mr. Wilkinson was the principal, who winked at, and shared, the unlawful spoil.

When Grierson was apprehended Wilkinson, for a while, consulted his safety in flight. After the conviction and transportation of his curate he again appeared, under a confidence that he could not be implicated, not having himself performed the mock ceremony. But the law taught this unworthy divine that an accessory is equally guilty with the principal; and sent him after his brother in iniquity, to preach to the convicts and savages in America.

They were both shipped off to the plantations in the year 1756.



*Page duped at a Masquerade.*

### WILLIAM PAGE,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

WILLIAM PAGE was the son of a farmer at Hampton, and, being a boy of promising parts, was sent to London to the care of his cousin,

who was a haberdasher, and who engaged to see him educated.

His kinsman sent him to school, where he soon distinguished himself

beyond his associates, not only in dexterity at such games as children amuse themselves with, but in all the little arts of defraud; so that his schoolfellows were afraid to engage with one who possessed such superiority of address and management.

A few particulars in the early part of Page's life we now recite, on account of their singularity: not that we would have any attention paid to the old proverb, which says that 'he that is born to be hanged will never be drowned.'

During the hard frost, in the winter of 1739, Page was sliding with other boys on the canal in St. James's Park, when the ice broke under him, and he sunk; and the ice immediately closing over him, he must have perished; but just at this juncture the ice again broke with another boy near him, and Page rose precisely at the vacancy made by the latter, who was drowned; but Page was saved.

In the summer following this singular escape Page was trying to swim with corks in the Thames, when they slipped from under his arms, and he sunk; but a waterman got him up, and he soon recovered.

Going up the river on a party of pleasure, about five years afterwards, with several other young fellows, the boat overset with them in Chelsea Reach, and every one in the boat was drowned except Page.

On a voyage to Scotland, about eighteen months after this escape, the ship in which he sailed foundered in Yarmouth Road, and most of the people on board perished; but another vessel, observing their distress, sent out a long-boat, by the help of which Page and a few others saved their lives.

His relation, the haberdasher, employed him in his shop, but he

greatly neglected his business to attend the arts of dress. He was such a consummate coxcomb, that he was perpetually employing tailors to alter his clothes to any new fashion he had seen. This being observed by his kinsman, he directed the tailors in the neighborhood not to receive his orders. Thus disappointed, our hero procured a dark lantern, which he secreted under his bed; and, when all the family were asleep, he used to alter his clothes to make them resemble the fashions then prevailing.

His relation observing this his strong propensity to be a coxcomb, abridged him of those pecuniary allowances he had hitherto granted him, which tempted Page to rob the till; and the first offence he committed of this kind was to discharge a pretended debt, for which a woman with whom he was acquainted had been arrested by a fellow who was connected with her.

This robbery was not discovered for some days; and, when it was, all the servants were taxed with it, but Page was least suspected; and, on his steady denial of it, the matter was suffered to rest for the present, though the money missing was above fifteen pounds. The kinsman, however, with a view to discover the thief, marked several guineas, which he put into the till; and they were soon afterwards taken out by Page. The money being missed, the master went to the chamber of each servant at night, and at length found it in Page's pocket; the consequence of which was that he was turned out of the house immediately.

Thus distressed, he repaired to his female acquaintance, who seemed ready to receive him with caresses; but, understanding what had happened, she caused her bullies to



drive him from the house, exclaiming that 'it was no receptacle for thieves; and that she would not run the risk of having her lodgings searched for such a wretch.\*'

Thus repulsed, where he had the greatest expectation of shelter and protection, he wandered the streets for some hours, irresolute how to dispose of himself. On the following day he went to Greenwich; but being totally destitute of money, and almost starving, he resolved to write to his relation, to beg pardon for past faults.

Having pawned two handkerchiefs, he purchased some provision, and then wrote the letter, which he carried to London. This letter so affected the kinsman, that he wrote him an answer, and sent him a guinea for present supply; but, to show his detestation of the crime, intimated that he would prosecute him for the robbery if he presumed to make a second application.

On receipt of the money Page exclaimed 'I shall not starve yet!' but such was his improvidence, that he immediately went to the vile woman with whom he had been connected, and by the next day the guinea was spent: however, she prevailed on him to write to his relation for a fresh supply.

This was the worst step he could have taken; for the kinsman, having this palpable proof of his extravagance, refused him all farther assistance. Thus reduced, he went to his father; but the kinsman having written an account of his irregular conduct, the father insisted on his leaving the house immediately, or he would have him taken into custody as a vagabond.

Hereupon Page travelled a few miles to a relation, who clothed

him, gave him money, and advised him to go to London, and seek a service; but, conscious of his want of character, he went to York, where he got connected with a company of strolling players.

In this situation he had some success. He played Polydore and Castalio; and, being almost beardless, performed some women's parts without censure. Soon afterwards he attempted the part of Cato; but, being quite drunk, he fell speechless on the stage while repeating the famous soliloquy; and, being carried off by the other actors, he could never recover his credit with the audience, and was dismissed the company.

From York he went to Scarborough, intending to have joined with a theatrical band at that place, but there was no vacancy to admit of his services. Thus disappointed, he repaired to a gaming-table, where he employed a few guineas, which he had brought from York, and soon won two hundred; but, by a pursuit of the game, he lost the whole of his money.

Thus distressed, a gentleman offered to take him to London in the character of a livery servant. Page hesitated for some time; but his necessity obliging him to accept the offer, he put on the livery suit. Several persons who had seen him appear as a gentleman at Scarborough still treated him as such, presuming that a frolic had given rise to the metamorphosis; but they were soon undeceived by his master, who told them the true state of the case.

When the gentleman and his new servant came near London, they were robbed by a highwayman; and Page, hearing of several exploits performed by the same man

\* Young persons will do well to read the play of *George Barnwell*, to caution them against the arts of abandoned women.



within a few weeks, (as he supposed by the description of his dress), thence conceived the first idea of going on the highway: but he lived above a year with his master after this, giving no reason to suspect his fidelity.

When he quitted this master he recommended him to another; but an infectious disorder obliged him to quit this second service, and seek a cure in an hospital, where he became acquainted with a woman under the like predicament.

Happening both to be discharged on the same day, they took lodgings near Charing Cross, and lived together for some time, till at length, reduced to poverty, Page commenced highwayman, and the woman became a street-walker.

Page's first expedition was on the Kentish road; and, meeting the Canterbury stage near Shooter's Hill, he robbed the passengers of watches and money to the amount of about thirty pounds; and then riding through great part of Kent, to take an observation of the cross-roads, he returned to London.

He now took lodgings near Grosvenor Square, and, frequenting the billiard-tables, won a little money, which, added to his former stock, prevented his having recourse to the highway again for a considerable time.

At length he met with a gambler, who, being more expert than himself, stripped him of all his money: on which he again commenced highwayman, but for some nights did not obtain a single booty.

At length he stopped a post-chaise near Hampton Court, and robbed a gentleman and lady of ten guineas and their watches: he took a valuable diamond ring from the gentleman, which he afterwards returned, on a reward of fifteen guineas being offered for it.

This success encouraging him to proceed in his depredations, he became more bold; and, having acquired about two hundred pounds on the highway, he took lodgings in Lincoln's Inn, passed as a student of the law, and became acquainted with several young gentlemen who were pursuing their studies in the same place.

He now learned to dance; and, having possessed himself of some modern literary knowledge by the help of circulating libraries, he frequented the assemblies of Sunning Hill, Richmond, Hampstead, &c. and ladies began to look on him with distinction.

At Hampstead he became acquainted with a young lady, who conceived a great affection for him; and her father approving the addresses of Page, the wedding clothes were bought, and other preparations made for the nuptials, when the lady's father happening to go casually into the shop of Page's relation, a scene ensued which entirely disconcerted the plan. The kinsman remarking to an acquaintance that he had seen Page in a laced coat, the gentleman was tempted to make a particular inquiry; the result of which was, that he found the new-made bean to be the very party that was to be married to his daughter: whereupon Page was forbid all farther visits, to the regret of the young lady, who still considered him as a man of superior accomplishments.

By this time Page had drawn, from his own observation and for his private use, a most curious map of the roads twenty miles round London; and, driving in a phaeton and pair, he was not suspected for a highwayman.

In his excursions for robbery he used to dress in a laced or embroidered frock, and wear his hair

tied behind. When at a distance from London he would turn into some unfrequented place, and, having disguised himself in other clothes, with a grizzle or black wig, and then saddling one of his horses, ride to the main road, and commit a robbery. This done, he hastened back to the carriage, resumed his former dress, and drove to London. He was frequently cautioned to be on his guard against a highwayman, who might meet and rob him: 'No, no,' said he, 'he cannot do it a second time, unless he robs me of my coat and shirt, for he has taken all my money already.'

He had once an escape of a very remarkable kind:—Having robbed a gentleman near Putney, some persons came up at the juncture, and pursued him so closely that he was obliged to cross the Thames for his security. In the interim, some haymakers, crossing the field where Page's carriage was left, found and carried off his gay apparel; and the persons who had pursued him, meeting them, charged them with being accomplices in the robbery. A report of this affair being soon spread, Page heard of it, and, throwing his clothes into a well, went back almost naked, claimed the carriage as his own, and declared that the men had stripped him, and thrown him into a ditch.

All the parties now went before a justice of the peace; and the maker of the carriage appearing, and declaring that it was the property of Mr. Page, the poor haymakers were committed for trial; but obtained their liberty after the next assizes, as Page did not appear to prosecute.

After this he made no farther use of the phaeton as a disguise for his robberies; but it served him occasionally on parties of pleasure,

which he sometimes took with a girl whom he had then in keeping.

Page was passionately fond of play, and his practice this way was attended with various turns of fortune, as must be the case with all gamblers. One night he went to the masquerade with only ten guineas, and won above five hundred pounds; and this money was no sooner in his possession, than a lady, most magnificently dressed, made some advances to him, on which he put the most favorable construction.

After some conversation she told him that her mother was a widow, who would not admit of his visits; but that possibly he might prevail on her attendant, whose husband was a reputable tradesman, to give them admission to his house.

Page, who had repeatedly heard the other address her by the title of 'My lady,' became very importunate with the good woman to grant this favour. At length all parties agreed; the servants were called; Page handed the lady and her attendant into a coach, on which was the coronet of a viscountess: two footmen with flambeaux got behind the carriage, and the coachman was ordered to drive home; but, when the carriage came into Pall Mall, fresh orders were given to proceed towards Temple Bar.

The fine lady engaged Page's attention to such a degree, that he paid no regard whither they went. At length the carriage stopped in an obscure street, at a house which looked like a shop, and the parties went up stairs, but not before the lady had whispered one of the footmen (loud enough for Page to hear her) to acquaint her grace, in the morning, that she did not return lest she should disturb her, and therefore slept at Mrs. Price's.

The good woman of the house

apologized for the meanness of her accommodations ; but Page said that all apologies were needless ; and the attendant retiring, he paid the most earnest addresses to the presumed lady, who at length, after a degree of affectation, that, if he had not been blinded by his own vanity, he might have readily perceived, she consented to sleep with him.

As it was late (or rather early) before they came from the masquerade, and much time had been lost in the courtship, it was four o'clock in the afternoon before they arose, and even night before a coach was called for their departure ; though the lady pretended that her mother, the duchess, would be extremely uneasy on account of her absence.

With great difficulty Page prevailed on the lady to admit of his attendance on her a part of the way home ; during which he promised every thing that a lover could promise ; and she answered him as he could have wished.

The coach stopping in Covent Garden, the lady went into a chair : and our hero offering to pay the chairman, he said that he was already paid, a circumstance that convinced Page of the disinterested disposition of this new acquaintance.

Repairing now to his lodgings, he reflected with pleasure on the happy prospects before him ; but, feeling for his pocket-book, he discovered that it was lost, and with it the greatest part of his treasure.

He now began to suspect that the lady of fashion was an impostor ; and when she failed to meet him on the following day, agreeably to an appointment that she had made, he saw that he had been robbed of five hundred pounds, without a probability of recovering it.

He now advertised a reward to the hackney-coachman who took them up, and made several other endeavours to find her out ; but they all proved equally fruitless.

Thus stripped of his ill-acquired property, he came to a resolution to make the women pay for what a woman had stolen ; and, taking the road to Bath, he robbed every carriage in which was a woman. If men were in the coach, he said he had no demands on them ; but had a draft for five hundred pounds on the ladies.

Finding that the women were possessed of little cash, he began to make his demands on the gentlemen, of whom he soon collected about one hundred and fifty pounds, which he carried to the masquerade, and lost it all at the gaming-table ; and was no sooner stripped of his money than he determined to engage in an intrigue.

Leaving the gaming-room, he danced with a lady, and then attended her to supper, during which he said some tender things, which he presumed might tend to promote an immediate assignation ; but he soon found that the lady had no other view than that of marriage, which was far from being disagreeable to him as he was then situated.

An appointment being agreed on for the following day, he waited on the lady at her house, and found that she was a widow of considerable fortune, and well descended. As he had the art of procuring himself to be well spoken of to her, she entertained no doubt of his honour. He escorted her to public places ; and the expense of these attendances was defrayed by his usual resource, the highway.

After one of his expeditions on the road he was followed to the inn where he put up his horse, and, being taken into custody, was tried



at Maidstone, but acquitted because the party could not swear to his identity. This circumstance, however, put an end to his acquaintance with the lady above mentioned.

The road and the gaming-table became now his only places of resort; and what he got by pillage he generally lost by play. He frequented Bath, Tunbridge, Scarborough, and Newmarket; and, when it was demanded if he was a man of fortune, the answer generally was, 'He plays deep;' and no farther questions were thought necessary.

Page now connected himself with an old school-fellow, named Darwell, in conjunction with whom, in the space of three years, he committed more than three hundred robberies. The money obtained by these depredations was immediately divided; and, if any dispute arose concerning a watch, or other article, they tossed up which should have it; or, if they appraised it, Page paid Darwell the half of the presumed value. In the mean time Page sold the watches to a Jew, who took them to Holland, and no farther inquiries were made after them.

Page was now seized with a violent illness, which proved very expensive, and the more so as he had a woman to maintain, who had no idea of retrenching her expenses to suit their circumstances. It is true that Darwell gave him considerable assistance; but, notwithstanding this, he was so reduced that, on his recovery, he was obliged to secrete himself to prevent his being arrested; and for this reason Darwell used to hire horses for them both; and Page meeting him out of London, they committed several robberies in company.

On Blackheath Page robbed Captain Farrington, of Chislehurst,

in Kent; which robbery was afterwards positively sworn against a Mr. Douglas by Captain Farrington's postilion, who likewise deposed that a pistol was fired at him; but, after Page was under sentence of death, he solemnly averred that no pistol was fired; and likewise declared, with equal solemnity, that, if Mr. Douglas had been convicted, he had formed a resolution of surrendering and exculpating that gentleman.

In the mean time Mr. Douglas was brought to trial, and honorably acquitted, on his bringing the fullest proof that he was at a distant part at the time that the affair happened.

Soon after the commission of this robbery Page heard that a distant relation in Scotland, who had promised to leave him his fortune, was near death; on which he took shipping for that country; but, the vessel being cast away, he lost all his effects but the clothes on his back; and, when he arrived in Scotland, his relation was dead, without having made any provision for him; on which he returned to London.

Darwell and he now renewed their depredations on the highway, and in the course of six weeks committed between twenty and thirty robberies on the roads adjacent to London; and the booties obtained in some of them being considerable, Page furnished himself with the gayest apparel, and laid by a sum of money for future contingencies.

At length, after a long course of iniquity, Justice Fielding received information that Darwell was on the Tunbridge road; on which he sent out some people, who apprehended him near Seven Oaks, and, bringing him before the magistrate above mentioned, he begged to be admitted an evidence for the crown;

and this request being complied with, he gave an ample account of the robberies committed by himself and Page, particularly mentioning the inns on the road which the latter frequented, and the place where he usually hired his horses.

The consequence was that Page was apprehended at the Golden Lion, near Hyde Park, when three loaded pistols were found on him, with powder, balls, a wig to disguise himself, and the correct map of the roads round London which we have already mentioned.

Page was sent to Newgate, and an advertisement inserted in the papers, requesting such persons as had been robbed to attend his re-examination: but he denied all that was alleged against him; and, as he was always disguised when he committed any robbery, no person present could identify his person.

Page, being remanded to Newgate, remained there from July to February, when he was tried on suspicion of robbing Mr. Webb in Belfound Lane, but acquitted for want of evidence. In the interim he lived handsomely, and supported a girl on what he had saved by his former wicked practices. After this he was tried at Hertford, but again acquitted for want of evidence.

From Hertford he was removed to Maidstone gaol, and, being tried at Rochester for robbing Captain Farrington (as above mentioned), was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction he acknowledged his guilt, yet exerted himself in the most strenuous manner to procure a pardon. He wrote to a nobleman with this view; and likewise sent a letter to a gentleman with whom

he had lived as a servant, begging his interest that he might be sent to America as a foot-soldier; but his endeavours proved fruitless, and he was ordered for execution.

This extraordinary malefactor suffered at Maidstone on the 6th of April, 1758.

What shall we say to the conduct of this man? He showed an early propensity to vice, and no escapes from drowning or the gallows could give him warning. His ruling passions seem to have been an extravagant love of pleasure, and a most unextinguishable vanity. Dress and gaming contributed to his ruin, as they have done to that of thousands.

If young men could but be convinced how much more of real comfort and solid satisfaction there is in the plain path of honesty than in the devious track of vice, these exhortations at the close of our respective narratives would be rendered useless.

From the fate of Page we may see how little confidence is to be placed in the faith of accomplices in iniquity. Darwell was as zealous to serve him as could be expected from any person in his circumstances; but, the moment his own safety became endangered, he turned evidence, and discovered his brother in iniquity. Thus will it ever be; and perhaps there is nothing more false than the remark that there is 'honour among thieves.' Where common honesty is wanting honour must certainly be a stranger. Let no man put trust in a thief: let him shun his company as he would a pestilence; for he walks in the ways of death, and 'his steps take hold of hell.'

RICHARD HUGHES,  
EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THIS man for some years carried on business in an extensive way, as a tailor and draper, in Arundel Street, Strand, London; and had acquired a capital, which he invested in a brewery; but it appears that this speculation, extending beyond the tailor's yard, did not succeed equal to the clipping of cloth.

Hughes had been intrusted by his uncle, the acting executor under his father's will, with a power of attorney to receive considerable sums of money due to the estate of the deceased; and, while he stuck to his shopboard, he performed the trust reposed in him with a punctuality which acquired him much credit among his country relations.

The brewery, a concern with which he was totally unacquainted, soon brought him into difficulties; and to surmount which he fixed his thoughts upon certain South Sea stock, possessed by his uncle, and found no peace of mind until he converted it to his own use. To this end he boldly went to the South Sea House, and asked the proper clerk for a Bank warrant of attorney, to sell stock. This is always kept at the office, and it was then necessary that the power of transfer should be witnessed by the minister, church-wardens, or overseers of the poor, of the parish in which the owner lived.

All these formalities Hughes himself soon counterfeited, and in due time presented the instrument at the South Sea House, and received upwards of five hundred pounds.

Had this ungrateful wretch suffered his iniquity to rest here, it might have remained undiscovered until he could have replaced the stock, which it may reasonably be pre-

sumed he meant to do; but the evil genius that goads us on to the commission of crimes, ever leads us to a precipice from which the victim is annihilated. So with Hughes, who, in attempting to cover the robbery, exposed himself to detection. No sooner had he received the money than he determined to pay a visit to the man whom he had injured.

The uncle received his nephew with much cordiality, until the latter, lulled into security, and now deserted by his tempter, among other ways of ingratiating himself farther into the old man's favours, told him that he had 'brought his interest on the South Sea stock.' The old gentleman did not appear to take much notice of this at the time, probably supposing he might have empowered him for that purpose; but, upon returning, he could find no authority vested in his nephew; yet he determined not to sift the matter while the young man remained his guest.

No sooner had Hughes departed for London than the uncle communicated his suspicion to the minister of the parish, who disclaimed all knowledge of witnessing any instrument which could warrant a transfer of stock.

Application was then made to the South Sea House, when the forgery was evident. The minister's Christian name was mistated, and no such persons as the other pretended witnesses could be found.

This was the sum of the evidence given on his trial at the Old Bailey; and on which he was consequently convicted, and executed at Tyburn, May the 18th, 1757.

The prosecution was instituted by the Board of Directors of the South Sea Company.



WILLIAM ADAMS,  
EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

OF the various arts used in the commission of this offence, which these pages enumerate, there is none less excusable than that practised by William Adams, who was a custom-house officer in London.

A man who can be guilty of a breach of public trust, and disgrace his office by a vile forgery, deserves but a small portion of pity.

The department in which this man served the public was that of examining certificates of over-entries on the duties on wines. This gave him an opportunity of committing the crime for which he suffered with the greatest security; and it is possible he might long have continued the practice had not an accidental omission of a date led to the discovery.

It was usual for merchants landing their wines to pay the duty; but if, upon trial, they appeared to be so damaged as not to be saleable, upon a proper application, and giving up the wines for the king's use, they were furnished with such certificates as entitled them to the repayment of the duty.

It was a certificate of this kind that Adams forged; and though such certificates are usually signed by six different persons, who are severally checks upon each other, yet he had counterfeited the names

and signatures of all these, and actually received the drawback on ten tons of damaged wines, amounting to two hundred and fifty-two pounds, for the use of Phineas Coats, in whose name the certificate was forged; but it being immediately discovered that a figure in the date was wanting, and he offering to supply it himself, a suspicion arose, and an inquiry was instituted; upon which it was found that not one of the clerks whose signatures appeared knew any thing of the matter.

Adams was apprehended, committed, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey for this forgery.

He had little to urge in his defence, further than that it had been a practice to receive such certificates as cash; that he had received this particular certificate as such; and that, if it was forged, he knew nothing of the forgery. This had no weight against the evidence which appeared against him, in the opinion of the jury, who, without hesitation, pronounced him guilty.

He was executed at Tyburn the 18th of May, 1757, on the same gallows with Richard Hughes, whose case was last related: and with John M'Lary and Michael Sullivan, for enlisting a soldier into the service of the King of Prussia.

JAMES AND WALTER WHITE, (BROTHERS,)

EXECUTED FOR A DARING BURGLARY.

THERE is something additionally wounding to sensibility when brothers embark together in the dangerous and destructive pursuit of plunder.

These men were natives of Surrey, and had resided in the neighborhood of Guildford and Godal-

ming. They were long accounted lazy sottish fellows, seldom seen at labour, yet ever sneaking about, and tippling in public houses.— Their supply of money to support these low and idle debaucheries had been long suspected; yet, though many petty larcenies had been com-

mitted in the neighborhood, no charge had been brought against them.

At length, however, justice, though slow, yet sure, overtook them. They were apprehended on suspicion of committing a robbery and burglary in the house of Mr. Robert Vincent, a farmer of Crawley, in the said county, in consequence of information being given against them by an accomplice, who, in fact, seduced them into the robbery—a depredation of a magnitude which they had not before attempted.

Being arraigned at the Lent assizes held at Kingston, in the year 1758, it appeared in evidence on their trial that the prisoners, James and Walter White, in company with a third person, did, in the night time, break into and enter the house of Mr. Robert Vincent. Their conduct was marked with cruelty; they beat Mr. Vincent inhumanly, and threatened to burn him alive if he did not discover where his money was hid. They then robbed him of four pounds and eighteen shillings in silver; one

Portugal piece, value thirty-six shillings; two guineas and a half; and various other articles.

They were found guilty on the clearest evidence, and underwent the dreadful sentence of the law on Kennington Common, the 19th of April, 1758. At the place of execution they acknowledged the justice of their sentence, but reflected, in terms of much bitterness, on their accomplice, whom they protested decoyed them from their work, by telling them how very easily money might be obtained by housebreaking.

While these unhappy men were yet struggling for life, an infant, of about nine months old, was put into the hands of the executioner, who nine times passed the hands of each of the dying men over its face. The child had a wen on its cheek, and the ignorant superstitious mother conceived it could be cured by dead men's hands.

The eldest of these unfortunate brothers was twenty-three, and the other had but just turned twenty-one years of age.

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## DOCTOR FLORENCE HENSEY,

CONVICTED OF HIGH TREASON.

‘IN the Court of King’s Bench, during the reign of King Charles I. a gentleman, named Arthur Chuhoggen, was attainted of high treason; viz. for saying, in *Spain*, “I would kill the King of *England* if I could come at him;” which was testified by the oaths of two gentlemen, besides others that justified it *from the several relations of other men*. For further probability of his malicious intent, the officers that apprehended him at his lodgings in Drury Lane, London, did depose upon oath, that then, when they told him that he was the king’s pri-

soner, he bit his thumb, saying, “I care not this much for your king.”

The attorney-general observed, that, in *Spain*, the biting of the thumb is a token of scorn and disdain in the highest degree, and will bear an action of disgrace in *Spain*, as spitting in one’s face will in *England*. After Mr. Chuhoggen was condemned the judges sent the sheriff to him, to know of him whether he could allege any other colorable intent for his coming over; but he gave no satisfaction on that point.

‘He was hanged, drawn, and

quartered, on the 27th of November, 1617. Previous to his execution he wished that he might never enter the kingdom of Heaven if ever he had said such words as those for which he was condemned."

The above is an extract from a curious manuscript letter from Mr. Justinian Pagitt, then a lawyer of Lincoln's Inn, to Dr. Twysden, chancellor of the diocese of Litchfield and Coventry. It presents the reader with a specimen of *justice* in the reign of the monarch who lost his head!

Such was the definition of treason formerly, and the punishment inflicted on a man who would now have been looked upon as mad, for no one in his senses could, for any earthly purpose, utter such incoherencies.

In comparing the cases of Chuhoggen and Hensey, we are as much surprised at the extension of royal mercy to the one as at the barbarous punishment of the other.

Martin Nowland, as we have already shown, was executed for attempting to enlist Englishmen for the service of France; and Thomas Hemmings suffered death for doing the same for the King of Prussia; yet Hensey, whose crime was tenfold greater than either of these, was pardoned.

De la Motte, the particulars of whose case we shall hereafter give, was 'hanged, drawn, and quartered,' for the same kind of offence which Hensey committed; and in still more recent times numbers have suffered death for similar treason; and yet we have to observe, without finding any reason for it, Doctor Hensey was pardoned. If granted from political reasons, it must have been in fear of Spain; an unworthy impulse of the ministers of a far greater and more powerful nation,

Dr. Hensey was a native of the county of Kildare, in Ireland, brought up a Roman Catholic, and taught the rudiments of grammar by a priest of that persuasion.

Being sent to St. Omer's to study philosophy, he continued there till the degree of master of arts was conferred on him, after which he proceeded to Leyden, where he studied physic. From Leyden he went through Germany and Switzerland into Italy, acquiring the knowledge of the respective languages during his travels.

Embarking at Genoa, he sailed to Lisbon, and, crossing the kingdom of Portugal, he went to Spain, and thence to France, endeavoring in his tour to make himself master of the Portuguese and Spanish languages. Having reached Paris, he practised physic in that city five years; but, being unsuccessful, he repaired to London.

His success in England was not superior to that in France. His patients were few, and those of the lower rank of people. From his quitting the university of Leyden he had corresponded with a brother collegian, who, having settled in France, procured a place in the office of the secretary of state at Paris.

When Dr. Hensey heard of his friend's promotion he wrote him a letter of congratulation, in which he made a civil offer of executing any of his commands in London.

This happening at the commencement of a war between Great Britain and France, Hensey's friend informed him that he might be very serviceable by transmitting early intelligence of our warlike preparations. This hint being approved of by the doctor, the next post brought him instructions how to act, with an appointment of near twenty-five pounds per month.



The substance of these instructions was 'to send complete lists of all our men of war, both in and out of commission; their condition, situation, and number of men on board each; when they sailed, under what commanders, from what ports, and their destination; an account of the actual number of our troops; what regiments were complete, and where quartered or garrisoned.'

Dr. Hensey sent such accounts as he could procure to a gentleman at Cologne, who forwarded them to another at Berne, in Switzerland, whence they were transmitted to Paris. Hensey's salary, ample as it was, proved unequal to the expectations he had formed; but he proceeded, in the hopes of an increase of it.

His first attempt to acquire intelligence was by getting into company with the clerks of the public offices; but, not succeeding in this, he frequented the coffee-houses used by the members of parliament; and, his professional appearance taking off all suspicion of his being a spy, he frequently learned such particulars as he thought worth sending to his employers.

It was a maxim with him not to enter into political disensions if he could avoid it; and, when he could not, he always spoke on the government side of the question, and was a professed enemy to the French; so that, though he was generally known to be a Catholic, he proceeded for a long time unsuspected.

His letters from Paris were sent by the way of Switzerland, whence they were transmitted to the Post-office in London, and directed to him at a coffee-house in the Strand by a fictitious name. A suspicion arose that these letters and their answers, which appeared to contain only a few complimentary lines

(as might be seen through the covers), were, in fact, a disguise for something of greater importance; and, this suspicion increasing by their frequency, the secretary of the Post-office at length opened some of those from Hensey, in one of which, dated from Twickenham, he read, between the lines written with ink, another epistle written with lemon-juice, earnestly advising the French to land on the English coast.

These letters were read by being held to the fire; and, several of them containing expressions which were deemed treasonable, the utmost diligence was used to discover the writer, and learn his real name; for which purpose a person was placed at the coffee-house to which the letters were directed, who followed him to his lodgings in Arundel Street, after he had received one of them.

On the following Sunday, Hensey, who was a Catholic, went, according to his usual custom, to the Spanish ambassador's chapel in Soho Square; on his return from which he was seized by two of the king's messengers, and conveyed to a place of security.

He was repeatedly examined before the secretary of state, and at length committed to Newgate to take his trial for high treason. The grand jury of Middlesex found a true bill against him in Easter term, 1758; but the trial being removed, by writ of certiorari, into the Court of King's Bench, he was there arraigned, and pleaded not guilty.

He likewise demanded a copy of his indictment, which was granted, and counsel directed by the Court to plead for him. He was advised to make proper preparation for his trial, which came on before Lord Mansfield in Westminster Hall.

The counsel for the crown having opened the indictment, the gentle-

men of the Post-office swore to the finding a number of letters in his bureau, and his handwriting was proved by some apothecaries who had made up his prescriptions.

The doctor's counsel ingeniously pleaded a defect in the indictment, because the letters were intercepted at the Post-office, which was in London; whereas the offence, if any, was committed in Middlesex, the grand jury of which county could have no right to find a bill for an offence committed in London.

The counsel for the crown replied that, though the letter had been intercepted at the Post-office, the offence on which the indictment was founded had been committed at Twickenham, as appeared by the date of the letter. They further urged that the solicitor of the Treasury might have laid the indictment in the city of London; but he preferred fixing it in the county, because the letter from Twickenham was one of the most dangerous tendency, and the others were to be considered only as collateral evidence against the prisoner.

Dr. Hensey's counsel now objected that the writing a treasonable letter was not an overt-act of high treason except this letter was published: in answer to which it was insisted that the delivery of it at the Post-office was an actual publication of it. The doctor's counsel farther said that he had not corresponded with the enemies of the king; for we were not at war with the Dutch, and the letters were directed to people in Holland.

The evidences having proved that the letter dated Twickenham contained an invitation to the French to invade this kingdom, that was considered as an overt-act of high treason, on which the plea of the prisoner was overruled, and the evidence was summed up by Lord Mansfield.

Dr. Hensey had hitherto supported himself with courage; but, during the absence of the jury, which was about three quarters of an hour, he trembled excessively, and repeatedly changed colour, while large drops of sweat ran down his face: he burst into tears, and gave every proof of the greatest agitation of mind.

On the return of the jury he had scarcely strength to hold up his hand at the bar. A verdict of guilty being pronounced, a rule of Court was made for his being brought up to receive sentence on the Wednesday following.

While Lord Mansfield was pronouncing sentence on the appointed day the convict shed tears, turned pale, and trembled exceedingly; and, after sentence, he begged a fortnight to make proper preparation for his death; but the Court generously granted him a month.

From his first apprehension by the king's messengers his behaviour had been remarkably reserved. He declined all conversation on his private affairs, and was visited by very few except his confessor. He was so reduced, while in Newgate, as to be obliged to pawn his sword and linen for his support.

A respite was sent for him early on the morning on which he was to have been executed, and afterwards a reprieve during the king's pleasure. After this he continued above three years in Newgate, and then embarked for France, on obtaining a free pardon.

It was presumed that the political reason for respiting Dr. Hensey arose from a view to discover his accomplices, if he had any; but, as no such discovery was ever made, it is but reasonable to suppose that the favour shown him arose from a different cause.

At the time Hensey was apprehended his brother was secretary

and chaplain to the Spanish ambassador at the Hague. To this brother he wrote an account of his misfortunes; in consequence of which the Spanish ambassador at London was applied to by the gentleman in similar office at the Hague; and such representations were made to the English ministry, that the reprieve above mentioned followed; though King George II. could not be prevailed on to grant him a free pardon; but soon after the accession of the late king this par-

don was granted, and the prisoner discharged, on giving the usual security for his good behaviour.

Yet, though pardoned, we would treat him, like every other traitor, according to the words of the poet:

—‘If, ye Powers divine,  
Ye mark the movements of this nether world,  
And bring them to account, crush, crush  
these vipers,  
Who, singled out by a community  
To guard their rights, shall, for a grasp of  
ore,  
Or paltry office, sell them to the foe.’

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### JOSEPH HALSEY, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE disposition of this man was perfectly similar to that of Captain Lowry, an account of whose cruelties, and the murder for which he was executed, will be found in the preceding pages.

Joseph Halsey was born of respectable parents in New England, North America, who gave him an education fit for a navigator. He was, when he committed the murder in question, mate of the ship *Amazon*, commanded by Captain Gallop. This vessel sailed from Jamaica for London the latter end of June or the beginning of July, having on board Captain Gallop; Halsey, the mate; four men, John Faher, Daniel Davidson, John Edwards, and Robert Green; and two boys, Thomas Symmes and William Mitchell.

Mitchell was about sixteen years of age, and Symmes seems to have been older. About a week after the *Amazon* left Jamaica the captain was taken ill, and confined to his cabin: the command, therefore, devolved upon Halsey. About the same time, also, the vessel sprung a leak, so that her hands were obliged to pump to keep her clear. Halsey, as soon as he took the com-

mand of the ship, began to treat the men with great brutality, abusing and beating them without cause or mercy. Complaint was frequently made to the captain, and he was repeatedly alarmed in his cabin by the cry of murder: but he was not able to afford the sufferers redress; only he said to Halsey, ‘Halsey, we have but few men, and, if you murder them, who will take care of the ship?’ The captain’s remonstrance, however, produced no effect, and soon after it became necessary to pump. Edwards and Davidson were taken ill: this afforded Halsey’s cruelty a new subject of gratification; he compelled the sick to work as long as those that were well; and, perceiving that they were feeble, and not able to clear the same quantity of water in the same time, he compelled them to continue pumping double the time that was allotted to the rest: the men, indeed, compassionated the poor sufferers, and voluntarily offered to pump for them, or assist them while they were pumping; but this Halsey would not suffer.

The captain, in the mean time, hearing the poor fellows were sick,



sent them out some fresh provision from his table, which Halsey would not suffer them to partake of: neither did his diabolical barbarity stop here; for he not only beat them without mercy, sometimes with a board, sometimes with a mopstick, and sometimes with a rope, but, when their watch was over, he prohibited them the refreshment of shelter and sleep, and insisted upon poor Davidson's standing upon deck all night in the rain, at a time when he could scarcely support himself on his legs, and had a right to have been in his hammock.

As the Amazon was in a fleet, and under convoy, it was often proposed to Halsey to send the two poor sick wretches on board a man of war, that the surgeon might take them under his care, and that two effective men might be sent on board in their stead; but this Halsey refused, though he knew, if he made the request, it would have been granted. When he was further urged, he said he had no clothes fit to go on board the man of war in; upon which both Captain Gallop and Captain Ball, captain of another vessel in the fleet, who happened to be on board the Amazon, some offered to lend him clothes; but he absolutely refused to accept them, for which it is impossible to assign any other reason than that he would not give up the pleasure he took in tormenting the men, for it was manifestly his interest to have rather effectual men than sick on board, especially considering the condition of his vessel.

After that he persisted in treating the sick men in the same manner, with this additional aggravation, that, though he allowed every other person in the ship three quarts of water a day, he allowed them only one quart, though their sickness increased the intolerable thirst, which,

in that climate, requires more than the largest of these allowauces to quench.

Halsey, that he might indulge himself in contemplating the misery he produced, always caused the two sick men to be upon deck whenever he was upon deck himself, whether it was or was not their watch, and used frequently to make Davidson stand with a mop held out in his hands, as a soldier holds out his musket, for many successive hours, without intermission or refreshment.

To this astonishing barbarity poor Edwards first fell a martyr; he died, and was thrown overboard.

About the same time Davidson, considering his fellow-sufferer as having escaped the misery to which he was still condemned, resolved to follow him, and, accordingly, silently let himself down by a rope from the stern into the sea, in hopes that he should be drowned, and lose both his misery and his life together; but it happened that Halsey saw him as he rose to the surface of the water; and such was the inveteracy of his malice, that he seized a rope and leaped overboard to bring him back, declaring that 'he should not escape him so,' and that he would have the pleasure of tormenting him a little longer. When the poor wretch was brought on board he was, to appearance, dead: the good captain, however, ordered him to be rolled, that the water might be discharged; and, when he came to himself, directed that he should be dry clothed. When he was stripped, in order to fulfil these humane directions, his body appeared to be bruised almost from head to foot.

Halsey, however, did not relent; he continued tormenting him by blows, insults, labour, and thirst: when he was so weak that he could

not stand Halsey forcibly drew him up by his hands, and, tying him to the shrouds, first beat him, and then left him in that condition for more than an hour: when he was untied he fell down. The man that came up the next watch found him lying under the boat on the bare deck; about four hours after he was seen lying on a sail; and in the morning he was found dead.

The captain dying at sea, and Halsey being obliged to ask the assistance of a man of war, which before he had refused, obtained two men in the room of Edwards and Davidson, and brought the ship home.

He continued to beat the rest of the crew during the remainder of the voyage, notwithstanding the murders he had already committed; but when he came into port, a complaint being made, he was taken into custody; and the facts here reduced to a narrative having been proved, he was condemned, and suffered at Execution Dock, March the 14th, 1759, without any circumstance of pain or infamy that would not have been then inflicted on a petty thief who had pilfered a silk handkerchief from a passenger in the street.



*Wheatley doing Penance in Church.*

**THE REVEREND MR. WHEATLEY,**  
SENTENCED TO DO PUBLIC PENANCE FOR ADULTERY.

We consider it a part of our duty to give our readers occasionally an account of the various modes of punishment, for the commission of crimes, in distant nations.

No guilt is more frequent than adultery, and none, in its progress, more tending to fatal consequences, involving whole families in ruin, and driving others to seek revenge

in the blood of the spoilers of their honour.

That adultery is a crime which has been detested by all wise and good people, as scandalous in its nature, pernicious to society, and destructive of religion, appears by the various severe laws and punishments by which legislators and magistrates have endeavoured to restrain it.

The histories of the ancient heathens tell us that they thought it a crime so very black and abominable, that they have compared it to sacrilege, or to robbing of temples; and their philosophers judged it to be worse than perjury. The old Ethiopians ranked it with treason, as a crime of the like nature and guilt; and the Egyptians had a law that the man guilty of it should have a thousand stripes, and that the woman should lose her nose, as a mark of perpetual infamy.

The ancient Athenians punished all adulterers with death, and even those who were only suspected with some less penalty. It was the custom of the Persians to throw the adulteress down headlong into a deep well; for, as adultery was, at one time, a common crime among the nobility and gentry in the court of ancient Persia, it became the frequent cause of rebellions, murders, and other dreadful calamities, in that empire.

The tragedy of *Mejistes* and his whole family, occasioned by the adultery of his wife with *Xerxes* the emperor, is most horrible to relate; and the punishment of *Apodines* the physician, for debauching *Amytis*, the widow of *Megabyzus*, is also most shocking and terrible.

The old lawgivers of Greece punished this crime with death.

Among the *Lybians* it was the custom to treat married women

guilty of adultery in the most severe manner, without mercy and without pardon.

In a certain city of *Crete*, when an adulterer was caught in the fact, and judicially convicted, he was first adjudged to be covered with a crown of wool, in derision of his soft and effeminate nature, signified by that material and the animal whence it was taken, then publicly to pay a heavy fine, and to be rendered incapable of bearing any office in the government.

The King of the *Tenideans* made a law that the adulterer should be beheaded with an axe; and commanded his own son, found guilty of this fact, to be put to death in that manner.

The *Lepreans* made a law that the men should be led round the city for three days together, and then burnt in the face with a brand of indelible infamy; and that the women should stand in the marketplace for eleven successive days, clothed only with a thin transparent garment, which should hang loose and untied, in order to expose them more to public shame, contempt, and laughter.

*Hippomines*, one of the kings of *Athens*, having caught an adulterer with his daughter *Limona*, ordered him to be tied to the wheel of a chariot, and her to one of the horses, and to be dragged about the streets till they died; a shameful and horrid spectacle to the whole city, but a public example of the most severe and impartial justice.

*Dio* the consul, the first King of the *Romans*, made a law that the faulty wife should be put to death after what manner her husband or relations thought fit; which law was afterwards confirmed, and continued in force many years. But the rigidly virtuous *Cato* al-



lowed the husband to dispatch his wife immediately on finding her guilty, without staying for the forms of justice. Many also of the Roman emperors punished this crime with present death; though it must be confessed, indeed, that many others of them, with their empresses and daughters, and ladies of the highest quality, when Rome was declining, were notoriously guilty.

We read of many Julias and Messalinas in the reign of the twelve Cæsars, and so downwards, for a great length of time.

This vice soon after became very common among them in the days of their conquests, national influence, and prosperity; and yet, such diligence and labour had there been used to bring offenders to condign punishment, that Tacitus says, when he was a chief officer of Rome, he found in the public records the names of three thousand who had been put to death for committing adultery. Even the heathen Romans always punished malefactors convicted of this crime by banishment, and, in cases of the highest degree, with death.

The Hungarians, in those days when virtue was in more esteem than at present, made death the punishment, with dreadful infliction. The father was compelled to conduct and force his own daughter to the place of execution, the husband his wife, and the brother his sister.

In Old Saxony a woman convicted of this crime was punished precisely as the English law punished the murderer of her husband—strangled, and then burnt to ashes. The adulterer was then hung up over her grave; or else the chaste matrons of the town where the fact was committed had liberty to scourge him with whips and rods,

from one village to another, until he died.

The Turks adopted the Levitical law, and stoned such offenders to death; though, before the law of Moses, the adulteress, when condemned, was burnt alive.

In holy writ, the prophet Jeremiah intimates that the King of Babylon was more cruel than any other monarch, for he roasted to death Zedekiah, the son of Maa-seiah, and Ahad, the son of Ko-laiah, because they had committed adultery with their neighbours' wives.

At this day, in Turkey, adulteries are often punished by drowning the guilty woman, and castrating the man.

The Spaniards and the Italians, by nature jealous and severe, wherever they suspect a man guilty with their wives, wait an opportunity of plunging a dagger secretly into his heart.

In France, five hundred years ago, two gentlemen of Normandy, who were brothers, were flayed alive, and hung upon gibbets, for adultery.

Modern writers have stigmatized this crime with the name it deserves—a most execrable villainy. Some of the old fathers of the Church have declared their minds with such sharpness and vehemence, as to pronounce it, in many cases, unpardonable.

If we look into the old books of the civil and canon laws we shall find that the several punishments made and ordained by them were either death by the sword or the loss of their noses, or some singular brand of infamy, or some large pecuniary mulct, or banishment; as we find by the old statutes of the Belgians and Hollanders. If a father caught his daughter in the fact, he might kill her and her gal-

lant upon the spot ; but a husband was empowered, in the like case, to put the latter only to death, but the wife was reserved to the judgment of the law.

Adultery, from being more immediately an offence against the Church, has been generally excepted out of the acts of pardon and indemnity, as an evil in itself, or of that nature which kings themselves cannot or will not pardon.

It would be endless to recount the many kingdoms and republics, with all their different laws and customs, where this abominable crime hath been, and still is, chastised and exposed with very signal, infamous, painful, and terrible punishments. In England, we are sorry to say, its commission now too often goes unpunished, whether in the prince or the pickpocket.

Let, however, this short extract from eminent authors, contrasted with its barefaced commission in our own country, give the immoral and incontinent a specimen of the opinion of the wise and sober part of mankind ; and let them dread the examples of the downfall of mighty empires from profligacy, lest its general adoption hurl their country into the like fate.

Yet, in the present day, adultery, which we have shown to have been held in much abhorrence in ancient times, and punished with great severity, is degenerated into a kind of fashionable and expensive vice among the rich of all the polished nations of Europe ; while the poor laborer, surrounded by children born in wedlock, and yet crying for bread, only heaves a sigh at such enormities.

A vice indulged in by the example of the great must spread like contagion, and every thoughtless young man become infected.

When the great, though bound by the marriage vow, live in open and voluptuous adultery, lesser men will have their concubines too ; and thus wives are deserted, and left either to pine under neglect, or, roused by their wrongs, desperately to seek retaliation.

The number of kept women in and about the metropolis we have already calculated. (See Vol. I. page 30.) Most of them are maintained in affluence ; and, having no kind of regard either for the person or the property of their dupe, they launch into every kind of extravagance and dissipation.

Corruption of morals in the people, though the progress be slow, will surely prove the downfall of their nation. When the hardy warriors of ancient Rome quitted ' the trade of arms,' and, for the martial step, substituted

' Love's majesty to strut before a wanton  
ambling nymph,'

then commenced that degeneracy which in time overwhelmed their mighty empire, and left them an effeminate race, contemptible to those very nations they had formerly conquered.

About the year 1759 the crime of adultery was proved, with aggravated circumstances, against a profligate fellow, under the mask of Puritanism, of the name of Wheatley. This man was a Methodist preacher, who was styled Reverend, and a schoolmaster at Norwich.

He was brought to trial for adultery committed with several of his neighbours' wives, all professing Methodism, at the Ecclesiastical Court of the Bishop of Norwich.

Sufficient proof having been adduced, the judge declared the said Wheatley to be a lewd, debauched, incontinent, and adulterous man ; and that he had committed the crimes of adultery, fornication, and

incontinence, to the great scandal of good men, and pernicious to the example of others. He was then sentenced to do public penance in a linen cloth, in the parish church, with a paper pinned to his breast, denoting his crime; and condemned to pay the costs of the suit.

Formerly adulterers were exposed to public odium and derision, in white sheets, in the parish church. The story in the 'Spectator,' of the adulteress riding on a black ram, is founded on fact:

At East Bourne and West Bourne, in the county of Berks, if a customary tenant die, the widow shall have what the law calls her free bench in all his copyhold land, *dum sola et casta fuerit*;

that is, *while she lives single and chaste*; but, if she commit incontinency, she forfeits her estate: yet, if she will come into court, riding backward upon a black ram, with his tail in her hand, and say the following words, the steward is bound by the custom to re-admit her to her free bench:

'Here I am,  
Riding upon a black ram,  
Like a whore as I am;  
And for my *crinum crancum*  
Have lost my *bineum bancum*,  
And for my tail's game  
Have done this worldly shame;  
Therefore I pray you, Mr. Steward,  
Let me have my land again.'

There is a like custom in the manor of Torre, in Devonshire, and other parts of the west.

### MARY EDMONDSON,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HER AUNT.

THERE is, and perhaps ever will remain, a mystery in the case of this convict. If she was guilty, she was one of the vilest of hypocrites; if not, the circumstances against her were so strong that the jury could scarcely avoid convicting her.

This unhappy girl was the daughter of a farmer near Leeds, in Yorkshire, but went to reside with her aunt, Mrs. Walker, of Rotherhithe, who was a widow lady.

With this aunt she lived two years, comporting herself in the most decent manner, and regularly attending the duties of religion.

A lady named Toncher having spent the evening with Mrs. Walker, Mary Edmondson lighted her across the street on her way home; and, soon after her return, a woman, who cried oysters through the street, observed that the door was open, and heard the girl cry out 'Help! murder! they have killed my aunt!'

Edmondson now ran to the house of Mrs. Odell, wringing her hands, and bewailing the misfortune; and, the neighbours being by this time alarmed, some gentlemen went from a public house where they had spent the evening, determined to inquire into the affair.

They found Mrs. Walker with her throat cut, lying on her right side, and her head near a table, which was covered with linen. One of the gentlemen, named Holloway, said 'This is very strange; I know not what to make of it: let us examine the girl.'

Her account of the matter was, that four men had entered at the back door, one of whom putting his arms round her aunt's neck, another, who was a tall man, dressed in black, swore that he would kill her if she spoke a single word.

Mr. Holloway, observing that the girl's arm was cut, asked her how it had happened; to which



she replied that one of the men, in attempting to get out, had jammed it with the door; but Holloway judging, from all appearances, that no men had been in the house, said he did not believe her, but supposed she was the murderer of her aunt.

On this charge she fell into a fit, and, being removed to a neighbour's house, was blooded by a surgeon, and continued there till the following day, when the coroner's inquest sat on the body, and brought in a verdict of wilful murder; in consequence of which she was committed to prison.

Mrs. Walker's executors, anxious to discover the truth, caused the house to be diligently searched, and found that a variety of things, which Mary Edmondson had said were stolen, were not missing; nor could they discover that any thing was lost. Mrs. Walker's watch, and some other articles, which she said had been carried off by the murderers, were found under the floor of the privy.

Being committed to the New Gaol, Southwark, she remained there till the next assizes for Surrey, when she was tried at Kingston, and convicted on evidence which, though acknowledged to be circumstantial, was such as, in the general opinion, admitted little doubt of her guilt.

She made a defence indeed; but there was not enough of probability in it to have any weight.

Being condemned on Saturday to be executed on the Monday following, she was lodged in the prison at Kingston, whence she wrote to her parents, most solemnly avowing her innocence. She likewise begged that the minister of the parish would preach a sermon on the occasion of her death.

She asserted her innocence on the Sunday, when she was visited by a clergyman, and several other people; yet was her behaviour devout, and apparently sincere.

Being taken out of prison on the Monday morning, she got into a postchaise with the keeper, and, arriving at the Peacock, in Kennington Lane, about nine o'clock, where she drank a glass of wine, and then being put into a cart, was conveyed to the place of execution, where she behaved devoutly, and made the following address to the surrounding multitude:—

‘It is now too late to trifle either with God or man. I solemnly declare that I am innocent of the crime laid to my charge. I am very easy in my mind, as I suffer with as much pleasure as if I was going to sleep. I freely forgive my prosecutors, and earnestly beg your prayers for my departing soul.’

She was executed on Kennington Common, April the 2d, 1759; after which her body was conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital, Southwark, and there dissected, agreeably to the laws respecting murderers.

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### EUGENE ARAM, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WE are now arrived at that period which brings to our view, perhaps, the most remarkable and extraordinary trial in our whole Calendar.

The perpetrator was a man of extraordinary endowments, and of

high education; therefore little to be suspected of committing so very foul a crime. The discovery of the murder is a striking proof that from the eye of Providence nothing can be concealed.

This case, once the topic of general conversation, and the subject of almost every pen, we have carefully gleaned from the records and prints of the day, and compiled, perhaps, a more particular account of this mysterious matter than has yet been presented to the public.

Mr. Eugene Aram was born in a village called Netherdale, in Yorkshire, in the year 1704, of an ancient family, one of his ancestors having served the office of high sheriff for that county in the reign of Edward III. The vicissitudes of fortune had, however, reduced them, as we find the father of Eugene, a poor, but honest man, by profession a gardener; in which walk of life he was, nevertheless, greatly respected.

From the high erudition of the unfortunate subject under consideration he may be truly called a prodigy. On the very slender stock of learning found in a day-school he built a fabric which would have been worthy the shoulders of our literary Atlas, Dr. Johnson. It may be truly said that, like McNally, the celebrated Irish barrister and admirable dramatist, he was self-taught. As the one excelled in his profession as usher to an academy, so did the other as an advocate at the bar of justice.

In the infancy of Aram his parents removed to another village, called Shelton, near Newby, in the same county; and, when about six years of age, his father, who had laid by a small sum from his weekly labour, made a purchase of a little cottage in Bondgate, near Rippou.

When he was about thirteen or fourteen years of age he went to his father in Newby, and attended him in the family there till the death of Sir Edward Blackett. It was in the house of this gentleman, to whom his father was gardener, that

his propensity for literature first appeared. He was, indeed, always of a solitary disposition, and uncommonly fond of retirement and books; and here he enjoyed all the advantages of leisure and privacy. He applied himself at first chiefly to mathematical studies, in which he made a considerable proficiency.

At about sixteen years of age he was sent to London, to the house of Mr. Christopher Blackett, whom he served for some time in the capacity of book-keeper. After continuing here a year or more he was taken with the small pox, and suffered severely under that distemper. He afterwards returned into Yorkshire, in consequence of an invitation from his father, and there continued to prosecute his studies; but found in polite literature much greater charms than in the mathematics, which occasioned him now chiefly to apply himself to poetry, history, and antiquities. After this he was invited to Netherdale, where he engaged in a school, and married. But this marriage proved an unhappy connexion; for to the misconduct of his wife he afterwards attributed the misfortunes that befell him. In the mean while, having perceived his deficiency in the learned languages, he applied himself to the grammatical study of the Latin and Greek tongues; after which he read, with great avidity and diligence, all the Latin classics, historians, and poets. He then went through the Greek Testament; and, lastly, ventured upon Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Herodotus, and Thucydides, together with all the Greek tragedians. In 1734 William Norton, Esq. a gentleman who had a friendship for him, invited him to Knaresborough. Here he acquired the knowledge of the Hebrew, and read the Pentateuch in that language. In 1741

he returned to London, and served the Rev. Mr. Plainblanc, in Piccadilly, as usher in Latin and writing; and, with this gentleman's assistance, he acquired the knowledge of the French language. He was afterwards employed as an usher and tutor in several different parts of England; during which time he became acquainted with heraldry and botany. He also ventured upon Chaldee and Arabic; the former of which he found easy from its near connexion with the Hebrew.

He then investigated the Celtic in all its dialects; and, having begun to form collections, and make comparisons between the Celtic, the English, the Latin, the Greek, and the Hebrew, and found a great affinity between them, he resolved to proceed through all these languages, and to form a comparative Lexicon. But, amid these learned labours and inquiries, it appears that Aram committed a crime which could not naturally have been expected from a man of so studious a turn, as the inducement that led him to it was merely the gain of wealth, of which the scholar is seldom covetous. On the 8th of February, 1745, he, in conjunction with a man named Richard Houseman, murdered one Daniel Clarke, a shoemaker at Knaresborough.

This unfortunate man, having lately married a woman of a good family, industriously circulated a report that his wife was entitled to a considerable fortune, which he should soon receive. In consequence of this, Aram, and Richard Houseman, conceiving hopes of making advantage of this circumstance, persuaded Clarke to make an ostentatious show of his own riches, to induce his wife's relations to give him that fortune of which he had boasted. There was sagacity, if not honesty, in this advice;

for the world in general are more free to assist persons in affluence than those in distress.

Clarke was easily induced to comply with a hint so agreeable to his own desires; on which he borrowed, and bought on credit, a large quantity of silver plate, with jewels, watches, rings, &c. He told the persons of whom he purchased that a merchant in London had sent him an order to buy such plate for exportation; and no doubt was entertained of his credit till his sudden disappearance in February, 1745, when it was imagined that he had gone abroad, or at least to London, to dispose of his ill-acquired property.

When Clarke was possessed of these goods, Aram and Houseman determined to murder him, in order to share the booty; and, on the night of the 8th of February, 1745, they persuaded Clarke to take a walk with them, in order to consult upon the proper method to dispose of the effects.

On this plan they walked into a field, at a small distance from the town, well known by the name of St. Robert's Cave. When they came into this field Aram and Clarke went over a hedge towards the cave; and, when they had got within six or seven yards of it, Houseman (by the light of the moon) saw Aram strike Clarke several times, and at length beheld him fall, but never saw him afterwards. This was the state of the affair if Houseman's testimony on the trial might be credited.

The murderers, going home, shared Clarke's ill-gotten treasure, the half of which Houseman concealed in his garden for a twelvemonth, and then took it to Scotland, where he sold it. In the mean time Aram carried his share to London, where he sold it to a Jew, and then en-



gaged himself as an usher, as already mentioned, at the Rev. Mr. Plainblanc's academy, in Piccadilly.

After this he was usher at other schools in different parts of the kingdom; but, as he did not correspond with his friends in Yorkshire, it was presumed that he was dead.

Fourteen years passed without the smallest clue being found to account for the sudden exit of Clarke, till in the year 1758 a laborer was employed to dig for stone to supply a lime-kiln at a place called Thistle Hill, near Knaresborough; and, having dug about two feet deep, he found the bones of a human body, still joined to each other by the ligatures of the joints, the body appearing to have been buried double. This incident immediately became the subject of general curiosity and inquiry. Some hints had been formerly thrown out by Aram's wife that Clarke was murdered; and it was well remembered that his disappearance was very sudden.

This occasioned Aram's wife to be sent for, as was also the coroner, and an inquisition was entered into, it being believed that the skeleton found was that of Daniel Clarke. Mrs. Aram declared that she believed Clarke had been mur-

dered by her husband and Richard Houseman. The latter, when he was brought before the coroner, appeared to be in great confusion, trembling, changing colour, and faltering in his speech, during the examination. The coroner desired him to take up one of the bones, probably to observe what further effect that might produce; and Houseman, accordingly taking up one of the bones, said, 'This is no more Daniel Clarke's bone than it is mine.'\*

These words were pronounced in such a manner as convinced those present that they proceeded not from Houseman's supposition that Clarke was alive, but from his certain knowledge where his bones really lay. Accordingly, after some evasions, he said that Clarke was murdered by Eugene Aram, and that the body was buried in St. Robert's Cave, near Knaresborough. He added, further, that Clarke's head lay to the right, in the turn, at the entrance of the cave; and a skeleton was accordingly found there exactly in the posture he described. In consequence of this confession search was made for Aram, and at length he was discovered in the situation

\* Murder may, for a while, be concealed; but the foul deed rarely remains long in darkness. About the time when this guilty wretch, taken by surprise, betrayed that which led to his accusation and punishment, the chamber-maid of a lady of distinction at Valenciennes murdered her mistress. Her lady looking into the cellar, the maid pushed her down stairs, and, immediately following her, stopped her mouth, and beat her over the head with a brick till she killed her: the murderess then went up stairs, dressed herself, attended vespers, and gave out that her mistress was gone alone to Annain, a village about a league off; that she was to go along the river Scheld, and that the next day she was to carry her watch and jewels. In the evening she returned home, cut the body to pieces, and next morning carried part of it in a bag, and threw it into the Scheld; and, towards the evening, she did the same with the remainder. The same day she carried the watch and jewels to the clergyman's at Annain, expressed much concern at her mistress's not being there, and, leaving the watch and jewels, went to look for her, as she pretended. On the 5th she returned, took away the watch and jewels, and carried them to her mistress's sister; and that day some pieces of the body being found in the Scheld, the unhappy wretch, in her guilty confusion, was the first who said that they must belong to her mistress, who, without doubt, had been murdered in going to Annain. However, she was taken up and examined, and people sent to the house, who discovered several traces of murder: upon which she was again examined, and, after much prevarication in her answers, she at last acknowledged the whole affair, and was executed.

of usher to an academy at Lynn, in Norfolk. He was taken from thence to York Castle, and on the 13th of August, 1759, was brought to trial at the county assizes. He was found guilty on the testimony of Richard Houseman, who, being arraigned, and acquitted, became an evidence against Aram; and whose testimony was corroborated by Mrs. Aram, and strong circumstantial evidence. The plunder which Aram was supposed to have derived from the murder was not estimated at more than one hundred and sixty pounds.

His defence, for ingenuity and ability, would have done credit to the best lawyers at the bar. He thus addressed the Court and jury:

‘My Lord,—I know not whether it is of right, or through some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time, to attempt a defence, incapable and uninstructed as I am to speak; since, while I see so many eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a concourse, fixed with attention, and filled with I know not what expectancy, I labour not with guilt, my lord, but with perplexity; for, having never seen a Court but this, being wholly unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar, and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so little capable of speaking with propriety in this place, that it exceeds my hope if I shall be able to speak at all.

‘I have heard, my lord, the indictment read, wherein I find myself charged with the highest crime, with an enormity I am altogether incapable of; a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot; and nothing possibly could have admitted a pre-

sumption of this nature but a depravity not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your lordship’s bar, and have heard what is called evidence adduced in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your lordship’s patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps, like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your lordship’s time: what I have to say will be short; and this brevity, probably, will be the best part of it: however, it is offered with all possible regard and the greatest submission to your lordship’s consideration, and that of this honorable Court.

‘First, my lord, the whole tenour of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of the indictment: yet had I never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seem to make it necessary. Permit me here, my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality of which prejudice was not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud, projected no violence, injured no man’s person or property; my days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious; and I humbly conceive my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent or unseasonable, but, at least, deserving some attention; because, my lord, that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without one single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy precipitately and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, and absolutely in-

consistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once; villainy is always progressive, and declines from right, step after step, till every regard of probity is lost, and every sense of all moral obligation totally perishes.

‘Again, my lord, a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time, with respect to health; for, but a little space before, I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half a year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me, indeed—yet slowly, and in part; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches; and, so far from being well about the time I am charged with this fact, that I never, to this day, perfectly recovered. Could, then, a person in this condition take any thing into his head so unlikely, so extravagant? I, past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a fact; without interest, without power, without motive, without means.

‘Besides, it must needs occur to every one that an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of but, when its springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some indolence, or supply some luxury; to satisfy some avarice, or oblige some malice; to prevent some real or some imaginary want: yet I lay not under the influence of any one of these. Surely, my lord, I may, consistently with both truth and modesty, affirm thus much; and none who have any veracity, and knew me, will ever question this.

‘In the second place, the disappearance of Clarke is suggested as an argument of his being dead; but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions of such a sort from such a circumstance, are too obvious, and too notorious, to require instances; yet, superseding many, permit me to produce a very recent one, and that afforded by this castle.

‘In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open daylight, and double-ironed, made his escape; and, notwithstanding an immediate inquiry set on foot, the strictest search, and all advertisement, was never seen or heard of since. If then Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very easy was it for Clarke, when none of them opposed him? But what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against any one seen last with Thompson?

‘Permit me next, my lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said (which, perhaps, is saying very far) that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible, indeed, it may; but is there any certain known criterion which incontestably distinguishes the sex in human bones? Let it be considered, my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them.

‘The place of their depositum, too, claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it; for, of all places in the world, none could have mentioned any one wherein there was greater certainty of finding human bones than a hermitage, except he should point out a church-yard; hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too:



and it has scarce, or never, been heard of, but that every cell now known contains, or contained, these relics of humanity; some mutilated, and some entire. I do not inform, but give me leave to remind your lordship, that here sat solitary Sanctity, and here the hermit or the anchoress hoped that repose for their bones, when dead, they here enjoyed when living.

‘All the while, my lord, I am sensible this is known to your lordship, and many in this Court, better than to me; but it seems necessary to my case that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a few of many evidences that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few in which human bones have been found, as it happened in this question; lest, to some, that accident might seem extraordinary, and, consequently, occasion prejudice.

‘1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon Saint, Dubritius, were discovered buried in his cell at Guy’s Cliff, near Warwick, as appears from the authority of Sir William Dugdale.

‘2. The bones, thought to be those of the anchoress Rosia, were but lately discovered in a cell at Royston, entire, fair, and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely.

‘3. But my own country, nay, almost this neighborhood, supplies another instance; for in January, 1747, were found, by Mr. Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm,

a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation.

‘4. In February, 1744, part of Woburn Abbey being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse appeared, even with the flesh on, and which bore cutting with a knife; though it is certain this had lain above two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved in 1538, or 1539.

‘What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question?

‘Farther, my lord:—it is not yet out of living memory that at a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriot baronet who does that borough the honour to represent it in parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six, deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at its head, as your lordship knows was usual in ancient interments.

‘About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also, in searching for gravel, another human skeleton; but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

‘Is the invention of these bones forgotten, then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary? whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My lord, almost every place conceals such remains. In fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons, lie frequent and unsuspected bones; and our present allotments far rest for the departed are but of some centuries.

‘Another particular seems not to

claim a little of your lordship's notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury; which is, that perhaps no example occurs of more than one skeleton being found in one cell: and in the cell in question was found but one; agreeable, in this, to the peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon. But it seems another skeleton has been discovered by some laborer, which was full as confidently averred to be Clarke's as this. My lord, must some of the living, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones that earth has concealed and chance exposed? and might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance as well as found by a laborer by chance? or is it more criminal accidentally to name where bones lie than accidentally to find where they lie?

'Here too is a human skull produced, which is fractured; but was this the cause, or was it the consequence, of death? was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay? If it was violence, was that violence before or after death? My lord, in May, 1732, the remains of William, lord archbishop of this province, were taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive that could occasion that fracture there.

'Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses, and the commencement of the Reformation, the ravages of those times affected both the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monuments ransacked,

and shrines demolished; and it ceased about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship, suffer not the violence, the depredations, and the iniquities of those times, to be imputed to this.

'Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knaresborough had a castle, which, though now a ruin, was once considerable both for its strength and garrison? All know it was vigorously besieged by the arms of the parliament; at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pursuits, many fell in all the places round it, and, where they fell, were buried; for every place, my lord, is burial earth in war; and many, questionless, of these rest yet unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover.

'I hope, with all imaginable submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment; and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity of this place, to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done—what nature may have taken off, and piety interred—or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

'As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe but that all circumstances whatever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability, yet they are but probability still. Why need I name to your lordship the two Harrisons recorded by Dr. Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen, and returned a great many years after their execu-

tion? Why name the intricate affair of Jacques de Moulin, under King Charles II. related by a gentleman who was counsel for the crown? and why the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocently, though convicted upon positive evidence; and whose children perished for want, because the world uncharitably believed the father guilty? Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously admitted king's evidence; who, to screen himself, equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the murder of Dun; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed at Winchester; and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been proved perjured, to the satisfaction of the Court, by the surgeon of Gosport hospital?

'Now, my lord, having endeavoured to show that the whole of this process is altogether repugnant to every part of my life; that it is inconsistent with my condition of health about that time; that no rational inference can be drawn that a person is dead who suddenly disappears; that hermitages were the constant repositories of the bones of a recluse; that the proofs of this are well authenticated; that the revolutions in religion, or the fortune of war, have mangled or buried the dead; the conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, at last, after a year's confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the candour, the justice, and the humanity of your lordship; and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury.'

Judge Noel, before whom he was tried, summed up the evidence with great perspicuity, and, in his comments on the prisoner's defence, declared it to be one of the most ingenious pieces of reasoning that had ever fallen under his notice.

The jury, with little hesitation, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

After his conviction he confessed the justice of his sentence to two clergymen, who were directed to attend him in York Castle, to whom he acknowledged that he murdered Clarke. Being asked by one of them what was his motive for committing that action, he answered 'that he suspected Clarke of having an unlawful commerce with his wife; that he was persuaded, at the time when he committed the murder, he did right; but that since he thought it wrong.' In hopes of eluding the course of justice, he made an attempt upon his own life, by cutting his arm in two places with a razor, which he had concealed for that purpose. On a table, in his cell, was found the following paper, containing his reasons for the above attempt:— 'What am I better than my fathers? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this, I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the manner of it is something which should, in my opinion, be decent and manly. I think I have regarded both these points. Certainly nobody has a better right to dispose of a man's life than himself; and he, not others, should determine how. As for any indignities offered to my body, or silly reflections on my faith and morals, they are (as they always were) things indifferent to me. I think, though contrary to the common way of thinking, I wrong no man by this; and hope it is not offensive to that eternal Being that formed me and the world: and, as by this I injure no man, no man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to that eternal and almighty Being, the God of Nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have



not; and I hope this thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by malevolence, and suffer by prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My life was not polluted, my morals irreproachable, and my opinions orthodox. I slept sound till three o'clock, awaked, and then writ these lines:—

'Come, pleasing rest! eternal slumbers, fall!  
Seal mine, that once must seal the eyes of  
all.

Calm and composed my soul her journey  
takes;

No guilt that troubles, and no heart that  
aches.

Adieu, thou sun! all bright, like her, arise!  
Adieu, fair friends, and all that's good  
and wise!

These lines, found with the following letter, were supposed to have been written by Aram just before he attempted his own life.

'My dear friend,—Before this reaches you I shall be no more a living man in this world, though at present in perfect bodily health; but who can describe the horrors of mind which I suffer at this instant? Guilt—the guilt of blood shed without any provocation, without any cause but that of filthy lucre—pierces my conscience with wounds that give the most poignant pains! 'Tis true the consciousness of my horrid guilt has given me frequent interruptions in the midst of my business or pleasures; but yet I have found means to stifle its clamours, and contrived a momentary remedy for the disturbance it gave me by applying to the bottle or the bowl, or diversions, or company, or business; sometimes one, and sometimes the other, as opportunity offered: but now all these, and all other amusements, are at an end, and I am left forlorn, helpless, and destitute of every comfort; for I have nothing now in view but the certain destruction

both of my soul and body. My conscience will now no longer suffer itself to be hoodwinked or browbeat: it has now got the mastery; it is my accuser, judge, and executioner: and the sentence it pronounceth against me is more dreadful than that I heard from the bench, which only condemned my body to the pains of death, which are soon over; but Conscience tells me plainly that she will summon me before another tribunal, where I shall have neither power nor means to stifle the evidence she will there bring against me; and that the sentence which will then be denounced will not only be irreversible, but will condemn my soul to torments that will know no end.

'Oh! had I but hearkened to the advice which dear-bought experience has enabled me to give, I should not now have been plunged into that dreadful gulf of despair which I find it impossible to extricate myself from; and therefore my soul is filled with horror inconceivable. I see both God and man my enemies, and in a few hours shall be exposed a public spectacle for the world to gaze at. Can you conceive any condition more horrible than mine? O, no! it cannot be! I am determined, therefore, to put a short end to trouble. I am no longer able to bear, and prevent the executioner by doing his business with my own hand, and shall by this means at least prevent the shame and disgrace of a public exposure, and leave the care of my soul in the hands of eternal mercy. Wishing you all health, happiness, and prosperity, I am, to the last moment of my life, yours, with the sincerest regard,

'EUGENE ARAM.'

When the morning appointed for his execution arrived the keeper went to take him out of his cell,

when he was surprised to find him almost expiring through loss of blood, having cut his left arm above the elbow, and near the wrist, with a razor; but he missed the artery. A surgeon, being sent for, soon stopped the bleeding; and when he was taken to the place of execution he was perfectly sensible, though so very weak as to be unable to join in devotion with the clergyman who attended him.

He was executed at York, August the 6th, 1759, and his body afterwards hung in chains in Knaresborough Forest.

More than thirty years had passed since the death of Eugene Aram, when his name was inserted, among the literary characters of our country, in the *Biographia Britannica*. There his high erudition is handed down to posterity. This tribute to departed genius, it however appears, raised the spleen of a meaner scholar, who arraigned the conduct of the editors in naming Aram, and omitting Bishop Atherton, who also met an ignominious death. The answer it produced, corroborating many of our observations on the life of the unfortunate Aram, and which we think will prove a highly acceptable conclusion to our narrative, we shall beg permission to quote.

‘Objections are made to the admission of Eugene Aram into the *Biographia Britannica*, and the exclusion of Bishop Atherton; but it appears to me that the remarks on this subject are far from being just. The insertion of Aram is objected to because he was a man of bad principles, and ended his life at the gallows; but it should be remembered that it was never understood that in the *Biographia Britannica* the lives only of virtuous men were to be recorded.

‘In the old edition are the lives

of several persons who ended their days by the hands of the executioner. Bonner was not a virtuous character, and yet was very properly inserted, as well as Henry Cuff, who was executed at Tyburn in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

‘As to Eugene Aram, it is truly said of him in the *Biographia*, in the article objected to, that the progress he made in literature, allowing for the little instruction that he had received, may justly be considered as astonishing; and that his powers of mind were uncommonly great cannot reasonably be questioned.

‘Eugene Aram possessed talents and acquisitions that might have classed him among the most respectable of human characters if his moral qualities had been equal to his intellectual.

‘It was certainly the extraordinary talents and acquirements of Aram that occasioned his introduction into the *Biographia*; and I know that by persons of undoubted taste and judgment the account of him in that work has been thought a curious and interesting article. His singular defence alone was well worthy of being preserved in such a work.

‘With respect to Bishop Atherton, he never had the least claim to insertion in such a work as the *Biographia Britannica*, and was therefore very properly omitted in the new edition. He was not in the least distinguished for genius or learning; his merely being a bishop could give him no just pretensions, and still less the unnatural crime for which he suffered.

‘The friends of Bishop Atherton say that his reputation was suspected to have been destroyed, and his catastrophe effected, more by the contrivance of a party than by the aggravated guilt with which he was charged. If this were perfectly

just, which, however, may be reasonably questioned, it would not give Atherton the least claim to insertion in the *Biographia Britannica*. Aram was inserted on

account of his uncommon talents and learning; but Atherton, who was not distinguished for either, never had the least pretension to be recorded in such a work.'



*Horne discovered by the Officers in an old Chest.*

## WILLIAM ANDREW HORNE, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

IN the character of this man human nature will be found at the very lowest pitch of depravity—base, mean, sordid, and sensual, in the midst of plenty: the seducer of woman, a tyrant to man; willingly would we spare the sum of his lust—the violator of his own sister! and, still more repugnant to name, the murderer of the offspring of this incestuous commerce!!!

The father of William Andrew Horne in vain endeavored to impart knowledge to his son; but he attended alone to his pleasures. Instead of sending him where he

would have been taught some manners, the too-indulgent parent permitted him to take his own course; allowed him hounds and horses, on which so many have galloped to destruction; and, in fine, he became a bumpkin squire.

Horne took delight in the sports of the field; but there were other pleasures to which he was at least equally attached. His passion for women was unbounded; nor was it equalled by any other, except a most singular degree of avarice, which distinguished him throughout the whole course of his life.



He seduced several girls, two of whom were servants to his mother, and one was the daughter of a farmer, which latter died in consequence of her grief. By one woman he had two natural daughters, one of whom lived to the age of fifteen years; and the other was living in 1759, and might have been reputably married, but that the avaricious father refused to give her a shilling as a portion.

He had likewise criminal connexions with his own sister; which leads us to speak of the crime for which he suffered. This sister being delivered of a boy, in Feb. 1724, Horne told his brother Charles, three days afterwards, and at ten o'clock at night, that he must take a ride with him. He then put the new-born infant in a bag, and, mounting their horses, they rode to Annésley, in Nottinghamshire, at the distance of five computed miles, carrying the child alternately.

'One crime committed, what a crowd of ills  
Join in its hapless train!'

On their arrival near the village, William dismounted, and inquired if the child was living; and, being answered in the affirmative, he took it, and told his brother to wait till he came back. On his return, Charles demanded to know how he had disposed of the infant; to which he said that he had placed it behind a hay-stack, and covered it with hay.

After William Horne was in custody his account of this transaction was to the following effect:—He said he had no design of destroying the infant, but put it in a bag lined with wool, and made a hole in the bag, that it might not be stifled. He added that the child was handsomely dressed, and he had intended

to have left it at the door of Mr. Chaworth, of Annesley; but the dogs barking, and there being a light in the house, he desisted from his first intention, in the fear of a discovery.

After some hesitation, he said he resolved to place it under a warm hay-stack, in the hope that, when the servants came to fodder the cattle in the morning, it would be found. Such was his account of the matter; and on the following morning the child was found dead, through the severity of the weather. How this affair came to be kept secret for such a number of years will hereafter appear.

In a short time after the transaction a quarrel happened between the brothers, in consequence of which Charles communicated the affair to his father, who enjoined him to the strictest secrecy; which was observed till the death of the old gentleman, who departed this life, aged one hundred and two years, in the year 1747.

William having always behaved with great severity to his brother Charles, the latter, (soon after the death of the father,) having some business to transact with Mr. Cooke, an attorney at Derby, told him of the long-concealed affair, and asked his advice. The lawyer told him to go to a justice of the peace, and make a full discovery of the whole transaction.

Hereupon Charles went to a magistrate, and acquainted him with what had happened; but he hesitated to take cognizance of it, saying it might hang half the family; and, as it had passed so many years ago, advised that it might remain a secret.\*

In consequence of this advice no

\* This was strange advice to be given by a justice of the peace. The date of a crime does not lessen its enormity; and it is the duty of the magistrate to receive every information that may tend to the advancement of justice and the punishment of vice,

farther notice was taken of it till the year 1754, when Charles Horne, being seized with a violent fit of illness, called in the assistance of one Mr. White, of Ripley; and, presuming that he should live but a short time, said he could not die in peace without disclosing his mind. When Mr. White had heard the tale he declined giving any advice, saying it was not proper for him to interfere.

Charles recovered his health in a surprising manner; and Mr. White, who saw him again in a few days after, expressing his astonishment at so speedy a recovery, the other said 'he had been better ever since he had disclosed his mind to him.'

A considerable time after this William Horne had a quarrel with a Mr. Roe, at a public house, concerning the right of killing game; when Roe called Horne an 'incestuous old dog.' Hereupon Horne prosecuted him in the ecclesiastical court at Litchfield, where Roe was cast, and obliged to pay all expenses.

This circumstance inflamed Roe with revenge, and, having learnt that Charles Horne had mentioned something of his brother having caused his natural child to be starved to death, he made such inquiry of Charles as determined him to apply to a magistrate in Derbyshire, from whom he obtained a warrant, but took Charles's word for his appearance on the following day. William hearing that such warrant was granted, and being apprehensive that his brother might be admitted evidence, he sent for him, and told him that he would be his friend if he would deny all that he had said. This the other refused; but told him that, if he would give him five pounds, he would go immediately to Liverpool, and quit the kingdom:

but William's excessive avarice prevented his complying with this moderate request.

'The lust of gold succeeds the rage of conquest—

The lust of gold, unfeeling and remorseless,  
The last corruption of degenerate man!'

DR. JOHNSON.

Charles being examined by some magistrates in Derbyshire, they declined interfering in the business: on which a justice of the peace in Nottinghamshire was applied to, who issued a warrant for taking William Andrew Horne, Esq. into custody; and this warrant was backed by Sir John Every, a magistrate of Derbyshire.

A constable from Annesley went with Mr. Roe, and some other assistants, to Mr. Horne's house, about eight in the evening, but could not obtain admittance; on which the constable left Roe and another to watch, that the party should not escape, and returned in the morning, when a servant told them his master was gone out; but Roe and his companion insisting that he had not escaped in the night, they were at length admitted, after having threatened to burst the door.

They now diligently searched the house, but could not find the party they wanted, and would probably have desisted but that Roe insisted on making another search, during which they observed a large old chest; and Mrs. Horne, being asked what it contained, said 'it was full of sheets and table linen.' Roe declared he would look into it, and was on the point of breaking it open, when Mrs. Horne unlocked it, and her husband suddenly started up, saying, 'It is a sad thing to hang me; for my brother Charles is as bad as myself, and he cannot hang me without hanging himself.'

Being taken into custody, and carried before two justices of the

peace in Nottinghamshire, they committed him to take his trial at the following assizes.

He had not been long in confinement when he applied to the Court of King's Bench for a writ of habeas corpus; which being granted, he was brought to London, and his counsel argued that he ought to be admitted to bail; but the judges were of a different opinion, and he was remanded to the gaol of Nottingham.

On the 10th of August, 1759, he was brought to trial before Lord Chief Baron Parker; and, after a hearing of about nine hours, the jury found him guilty, and sentence of death passed of course.

Though so many years had passed since the transaction, the persons who found the child were yet living; and their testimony corroborating that of his brother Charles led to this conviction.

Horne, being convicted on a Saturday, was sentenced to die on the Monday following; but a number of gentlemen waited on the judge, intimating that Horne had been so long hardened in iniquity that a farther time would be necessary to prepare him for his awful change; in consequence of which a respite of a month was granted.

When this time was nearly expired he received a reprieve during his majesty's pleasure; so that he began to entertain hopes of obtaining a free pardon. He employed the greater part of his time in writing to people that he thought might have interest to save him. He seemed little affected by the enormity of his crime, and frequently said 'It was damned hard to suffer on the evidence of a brother for a crime committed so many years before.'

It was generally reported that he had committed a number of other

atrocious crimes, most of which he denied; and said to an acquaintance, 'My brother Charles was tried at Derby about twenty years ago, and acquitted; my dear sister Nancy perjuring herself at the same time to save his life, which you see was preserved to hang me.'

He acknowledged to a clergyman who assisted him in his devotions that he forgave all his enemies, even his brother Charles; but made the following strange addition to his speech, that if, at the day of judgment, 'God Almighty should ask him how his brother behaved, he would not give him a good character.'

It happened that on the day appointed for his execution, which took place at Nottingham, December the 11th, 1759, he had just completed his seventy-fourth year; and, having always been accustomed to have a plum-pudding on his birth-day, he would have continued that custom if he had received another reprieve.

He was of so penurious a disposition, that it was said he never did one charitable or generous action in the course of his life.

Notwithstanding his licentious conduct, his father left him all his real estate, having some time before his death given all his personal estate, by a deed of gift, to his son Charles.

The father died on a couch in the kitchen, and happened to have about twelve guineas in his pocket, which certainly belonged to Charles; but William rifled his father's pockets of their contents, and would not part with it until Charles promised to pay the whole expenses of the funeral, and which he was actually obliged to perform.

Still the elder brother would not deliver to him the remainder of the father's personal estate, but, on



his demanding it, turned him out of doors. Though this monster knew that he had confided an important secret to his brother, yet, when in poverty, he would not render him the least assistance; nay, he refused a morsel of bread to his hungry children, begging at his gates for food.

Charles kept a little alehouse for his immediate support at one of the gates leading to his brother's mansion, which he frequently opened, with hat in hand, to his tyrant brother, who deigned not to notice him. He would not suffer a man unqualified to set foot upon his lands, and

he was a terror to the neighborhood.

In addition to the black catalogue of crimes which we have given, Horne confessed, a short time previous to his execution, that he had beat one Amos Killer so as to break his arm, which occasioned the poor fellow's death. We could adduce other crimes committed by this barbarous man, but nature is sickened by those already described to have been the diabolical deeds of a single individual; yet they form an admirable lesson to guard mankind against tyranny, lust, and avarice.

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### JOHN STEVENSON, CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER.

JOHN STEVENSON was a cheese-factor at Bickerton, and, becoming insolvent, fortified himself in his house, and admitted nobody within the doors for fear of an arrest.

A writ was issued out against him by Elcock, at the suit of one Atkins, for eighteen pounds, eight shillings, and ten pence; and a warrant was made out upon the writ by one Baxter, who, by verbal appointment, acted for the under sheriff. This warrant was delivered sealed to Elcock, or his agent, directed to one John Evans, a bailiff, and a blank left in it for the names of any other persons by whom the attorney should think fit to have it executed, such being the custom of the place. After the warrant had been thus sealed and delivered, Elcock inserted the names of John James and John Jones, who were deemed bailiffs extraordinary for this particular arrest; and, as they had not given bond to the sheriff, Elcock undertook, by an indorsement on the warrant, to indemnify the sheriff from any injury he might suffer by the act of John James

and John Jones, whose names he had inserted in the warrant, and to whom he had committed the execution of it.

John James found means to get into Stevenson's house by stratagem, and arrested him upon this warrant; but Stevenson rescued himself by snapping a pistol three times at James, which happily missing fire, James escaped from the house, and left his prisoner behind him.

When Elcock learnt that Stevenson had been arrested and rescued himself, he immediately sent for arms, and a crow to break open the door, and retake Stevenson by force.

Several persons soon after assembled armed, and, with James and Jones, the bailiffs, beset the house. James had put an iron crow under one door of the house, and made an attempt to force it off the hinges; but, failing, he left Elcock at that door, with the crow lying under it, directing him to watch that Stevenson did not escape, and went himself to another

door. When James was gone Elcock took up the crow, and, while he was making another effort with it to force the door, Stevenson discharged a gun through the door at him, which gave him a mortal wound, of which he died in about ten hours.

The facts were all incontestably proved, and that Stevenson knew the persons who were about to force his door were assistants to the bailiffs from whom he had rescued himself; but it was insisted, by the counsel for the prisoner, first, that the warrant was not good, because it was issued by a person who had no legal delegation of authority from the sheriff to grant it, verbal appointment being insufficient. To this it was replied, on behalf of the crown, that it has been the custom immemorial for clerks to attend at the office of sheriffs, and make out warrants upon writs directed to them, particularly at the two Counters in London, and at the Middlesex office in Furnival's Inn. Secondly, it was insisted for the prisoner, that the insertion of the names of the bailiffs by whom the warrant was to be executed, after the warrant was sealed, made it an illegal warrant; and Lord Hale was quoted, who says, 'If a sheriff's bailiff come to execute a process, but has not a legal authority, as if the name of the bailiff, &c. be interlined, or inserted after the sealing thereof, if such bailiff be killed it is but manslaughter.' To this it was replied, that this opinion of Lord Hale being omitted by Sergeant Hawkins, it may be presumed that he doubted it; that, if a person gave a bond sealed and executed to another, with a blank for the sum, and direct him to insert two hundred pounds in it, and he to whom the bond is given does fill it up, the bond is good, which is supposed to

contradict Lord Hale's opinion concerning a warrant. Thirdly, it was insisted for the prisoner, that, supposing the warrant to have been good, yet it being only mesne process, and not execution, the bailiffs had no right to break open doors to retake the prisoner, as they would have had if it had been upon an execution; but might have returned a resene to the sheriff, which they could not do on an execution. To this it was replied, that, though they were at liberty to return a rescue, they were not obliged to do it, and that the moment the defendant had rescued himself the nature of the case was changed from civil to criminal; he was become a violator of the peace, and the bailiff had a right to call to his assistance whom he would, and every person whom he called was obliged to afford it. Lastly, it was argued for the prisoner, that supposing the warrant to be good, and the bailiff to have a right to force the doors of the defendant, yet Elcock was not justified in the act he was doing when he was shot, for the bailiff, from whom alone he could receive authority in this case, ordered him only to stand at the door and watch; but he attempted immediately to force it with a crow, so that he exceeded his commission and authority, and thus, not being legally justified in what he was doing when he was killed, the killing him was not murder. To this it was replied that Elcock was with the bailiff to give him general assistance, and was justified in performing any act which tended to the recaption of the defendant.

After these questions had been argued, it was resolved by the Court to direct the jury to bring in a special verdict, which was accordingly done.

On the 6th of May, 1759, the case of Stevenson was argued be-

fore the Honorable Mr. Justice Noel, Chief Justice of Chester, and Thomas White, Esq. the other justice, who gave their opinion that the prisoner's crime, found by the

special verdict, could amount at most to manslaughter only. Upon which he was burnt in the hand, and discharged from the capital part of the indictment.

### JOHN AYLIFFE, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

A course of dissipation and extravagance beyond our income must end in misery; with this man it terminated in an ignominious death on the gallows.

His father lived several years as upper servant with Gerrard Smith, Esq. a gentleman of large fortune, near Tockenham, in Wiltshire.—After young Ayliffe had been instructed in the first rudiments of learning he was sent to the celebrated academy at Harrow on the Hill, where he became a good proficient in Latin and Greek.

On his quitting the academy he acted in the capacity of usher to a boarding-school at Lincham, in Wiltshire, where, unknown to her parents, he married the daughter of a clergyman, who had a fortune of five hundred pounds. On receipt of this money he became so extravagant that he spent the whole in the course of two years; when, being in circumstances of distress, a widow-lady, named Horner, took him into her service as house-steward.

In a short time he was appointed land-steward to another lady, who recommended him as a man of abilities to the Honorable Mr. Fox (afterwards Lord Holland), who gave him the place of one of the commissaries of musters in the War-office, by which he acquired the right of adding the title of Esquire to his name.

The profits of Ayliffe's new office were so considerable, that he was induced to purchase an elegant

house in Dorsetshire, which he furnished in a style far too expensive for his rank of life. In other instances he gave proofs of a strange extravagance of disposition; for he ran in debt to a number of people, though his income was sufficient to have satisfied the wishes of any reasonable man.

At length, when his creditors became urgent, he had recourse for a present supply to some irregular and very dangerous practices; amongst others, he forged a presentation to the valuable rectory of Brinkworth, in Wiltshire, which he sold to a young clergyman for a considerable sum. This living being in Mr. Fox's gift, he forged his handwriting, and that of two subscribing witnesses, with admirable dexterity; but, soon after Ayliffe's affairs became desperate, a discovery was made of this infamous fraud.

The effect was that the clergyman took to his bed, and literally died in consequence of that depression of spirits which is commonly called a broken heart, for the purchase of the presentation had ruined his circumstances. After his death the following short note was found in his drawer, directed to John Ayliffe *Satan*, Esq.—

‘ Sir,

‘ I am surprised you can write to me, after you have robbed and most barbarously murdered me. Oh, Brinkworth!’

Ayliffe, being arrested for debts to the amount of eleven hundred



pounds, took refuge in the Fleet Prison.

Mr. Fox being upon a visit to his brother, Lord Ilchester, Mr. Calcraft called at Holland House, according to his usual custom, to inquire, before he wrote to his patron, whether there were any letters for him, or any other business to inform him of. One day, as he called, he found Fanning, Mr. Fox's steward, in conversation with a man who had the appearance of a farmer. Just as Mr. Calcraft entered he heard Fanning say 'I'm sure 'tis not my master's hand; but here comes a gentleman who can inform you better than I can.' Saying this, he delivered into Mr. Calcraft's hand a lease. When Mr. Calcraft had looked over it he declared that the signature was not Mr. Fox's; 'nor,' continued he, 'can there be such a lease really existing; for the late Mrs. Horner discharged Ayliffe from her service upon account of his having married a person whom she did not approve of; and it is not to be supposed she would grant him a lease for the life of himself, his son, and that very wife for the imprudent choice of whom she had dismissed him.' The farmer no sooner heard this than he exclaimed—'Then I am undone! the villain has robbed me of what I had saved for my daughter's portion.' Upon a further investigation of the affair Mr. Calcraft found that the lease given to the farmer had been forged, purposely to raise money upon. Mr. Fox had made this Ayliffe a riding commissary. The income arising from this employment was alone more than sufficient to support such a family as his; but he had, in addition to it, adopted the profession of buying estates. As he was supposed to be a good judge of the value of land, Mr. Calcraft

had empowered him to purchase estates for him in Dorsetshire; and Ayliffe had already received the sum of eleven thousand pounds from him for that purpose, else, in all probability, he would have continued his depredations for some time longer.

Mr. Calcraft no sooner discovered, by this accident, what Ayliffe had been doing, than he set out in pursuit of him. He found him at Salisbury, where, under pretext of the forgery, he had him taken by proper persons into custody. This had the desired effect. In the first emotions of his terror he refunded the whole of the eleven thousand pounds. Mr. Calcraft had him then immediately secured by Justice Fielding's men, who had come in pursuit of him, in consequence of an application from the farmer: they clapped a pair of handcuffs on him, and brought him to town, when he was committed. An express was sent to Mr. Fox, who still continued at Lord Ilchester's, to inform him of the transaction; and the first knowledge that that gentleman had of it was after Ayliffe stood committed for trial.

Mr. Fox was unjustly censured upon this occasion, as, indeed, he was upon many others, where his commissaries had all the emoluments and he all the odium. The unhappy man, solicitous for his life, wrote to Mr. Fox, who was then in town, and greatly shocked at the affair. In his letter he requested that gentleman's forgiveness, and, acknowledging himself the most ungrateful of men, promised, if he would but save him from his merited sentence, his whole life should be employed in endeavoring to deserve the mercy, and to atone for the enormities he had been guilty of. But the very same hour he wrote to Mr. Pitt, who

was then minister, to inform him that, if he would rescue him from his approaching fate, he would discover such iniquitous practices of his late employer as should fully repay the saving him. Mr. Pitt, with a liberality of sentiment which does honour to his memory, sent the wretch's letter immediately to Mr. Fox. That gentleman received it as he was preparing to go to court on purpose to solicit the prisoner's pardon; but this discovery of his baseness now rendered it impossible, as such an application would have carried with it a declaration of his being in the villain's power, and that he was apprehensive of his putting his threats into execution. No intercession was of course made for him, and he suffered the due reward of his crime.

Thus did this wretched being fall a victim to his unparalleled ingratitude and duplicity, and by him was this best of masters repaid for all his kindness in the same manner as he was by the generality of his dependents. To wind up the tragical story, Fanning, who was the innocent cause of bringing the affair to light, was deprived of sense and life in consequence of it. A very different turn has been given to the foregoing incident by Mr. Fox's enemies. Prejudice and enmity have painted his conduct upon this occasion in the blackest light; but the good man, armed with that strongest of breast-plates, a heart untainted, set the shafts of calumny at defiance.

Ayliffe still continued to charge his benefactor with unjustifiable proceedings; but, after conviction of the forgery in the name of Mrs. Horner, he wrote him the following letter:—

‘Honored Sir,

‘The faults I have been guilty of

shock my very soul, and particularly those towards you; for which I heartily ask pardon both of God and you. The sentence pronounced upon me fills me with horror, such as never was felt by mortal. What can I say? O my good God! that I could think of any thing to induce you to have mercy upon me; or to prevail upon you, good sir, to intercede for my life. I would do any thing, either at home or abroad. For God's sake, good sir, have compassion on your unhappy and unfortunate servant,

‘JOHN AYLIFFE.’

Mr. Fox supported this man during the whole time of his confinement in Newgate, allowing every thing that his unhappy situation could require.

Ayliffe seems to have been much unprepared for death, possibly flattering himself with the hopes of a pardon. He was in the utmost agonies during the greater part of the night previous to his execution, but slept about two hours towards the approach of morning. His agitation of mind brought on a fever, which producing an intolerable thirst, he endeavored to allay it by drinking large and repeated draughts of water.

On his way to the place of execution his violent agitation seemed to have subsided; and at the fatal tree he behaved with decency and composure. Some persons present called out ‘A reprieve!’ but he paid no regard to what was said; and his hopes respecting this life appeared now to be vanished.

After execution, which took place at Tyburn, November the 7th, 1759, his body was put into a hearse, and conveyed into Hertfordshire for interment, agreeably to his own request.

## ROBERT TILLING,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING HIS MASTER.

MR. LLOYD, an eminent merchant, lived in Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate Street, London. He kept his carriage, and hired Tilling as his coachman.

On the 19th of February, 1760, at four o'clock in the morning, Mr. Lloyd was disturbed from sleep by a noise in his house; and he presently saw a man at his bedside, with a lantern and pistol in his hands. He presented the latter to Mr. Lloyd's head, and demanded the keys of his escritoir, threatening him with instant death if he refused. Having received them, he told the owner that in case of his calling out, or even moving, he had left a guard who would dispatch him. This was the confederate villain, the coachman, who kept himself in the back ground, that his master should not know him.

This singular robber, whom we are sorry not to find brought to condign punishment, then went down stairs, and opened the money-drawer, which contained a considerable sum. With this he returned to Mr. Lloyd, and said, 'You see, Sir, I have only taken the money out of your escritoir; your plate, watch, or any thing else, I have not meddled with; and, as to the little cash in your pocket, I scorn to meddle with it;' and the thieves then made their escape.

Suspicious circumstances arising against Tilling, he was apprehended, and brought before the lord

mayor, who committed him for a second examination.

Upon being again brought up, he confessed to his lordship the robbery above described; and, further, that he had robbed Mr. Hayward, and two other gentlemen; but denied a mail robbery, of which he was also suspected.

He was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, convicted, and received sentence of death.

He suffered at Tyburn, April the 28th, 1760, along with John Guest and Thomas Smith, for a burglary in the house of Mr. Howe, a silversmith, in Fleet Street, and William Beckwith, for stealing divers goods in the house of Mr. John Moore.

Two days after the execution of Tilling his body was interred in the burying-ground of Bunhill Fields. He had been a stanch Methodist. The leader of that sect, Mr. Whitfield, accompanied by a prodigious number of his followers, attended on that occasion. There was no burial-service read; but, after the corpse had been some time laid in the ground, Whitfield went up to the spot, and, in a declamatory way, showed that the wages of sin were death. He proclaimed the penitence of the malefactor, and exhorted all to turn from their vices, and come to Christ; and then besought servants to take warning by their departed brother's untimely death, and to show all fidelity to their masters.

## FRANCIS DAVID STIRN,

CONVICTED OF MURDER.

FRANCIS DAVID STIRN was born in the principality of Hesse Cassel, about the year 1735. His father

was a minister, and his brother a metropolitan minister at Hersfeldt, having the superintendence over the



Calvinist clergy of a certain district.

At a proper age he was sent to a public grammar-school in Hesse Cassel, where he made a considerable progress, and was then removed to a college at Bremen, which is endowed with professorships, as an university. While he was here he preached some probationary discourses, according to the custom of the place; and, though he was scarcely twenty years of age, became tutor to the son of one Haller, a doctor of laws, and burgo-master of the city. But he soon forfeited the favour both of Mr. Haller and his wife by a suspicious and supercilious disposition, which broke out into so many acts of indecorum, that he was dismissed from his employment.

He was then taken home by his brother, who soon after placed him at the University of Hirtelin, belonging to Hesse, where he pursued his studies from the year 1756 till the middle of the year 1758. During this time he improved his knowledge in the Latin and Greek classics to an uncommon degree; he also acquired a very considerable skill in the Hebrew, and became a great proficient both in vocal and instrumental music, dancing, fencing, and other polite accomplishments.

About this time, the French having made an irruption into Hesse, and impoverished the inhabitants by raising exorbitant contributions, his brother was no longer able to support him, and therefore sent him to England with very strong recommendations to a friend, who was in a station of great honour and interest.

This person received him kindly, and promised to procure him an appointment that should be agreeable to his friends; but, as no op-

portunity immediately presented, he offered himself as an assistant to Mr. Crawford, who kept a school in Cross Street, Hatton Garden, and was received upon the recommendation of the Reverend Mr. Planta, who had himself lived with Mr. Crawford in that station, and left him upon his having obtained a place in the Museum. It was also proposed that he should assist the German minister at the chapel in the Savoy, where he preached several probationary discourses; but, as he made use of notes, he was not approved of by his auditory. Stirn, however, with the suspicion natural to his temper, imputed his disappointment to some unfriendly offices of Mr. Planta, and some unaccountable combination between him and the people.

He then turned his thoughts towards a military life, in which some offer of advantage seems to have been made him; but his friends here were so well apprized of his infirmity, that, knowing it would be impossible for him to submit to the subordination established in the army, they earnestly dissuaded him from it, that he might not incur the censure of a court-martial, or bring himself into other inextricable difficulties.

He then formed a design of entering into one of our universities; and, having communicated it to his friends, he obtained the interest of several clergymen of considerable influence: but some new sally of his jealous and ungovernable temper disgusted his friends and disappointed his expectations. Yet, instead of imputing his disappointment to himself, he threw out many threats against those whom he had already offended by his petulance and ill behaviour.

In the mean time he continued in Mr. Crawford's family, where

he gave frequent and mortifying instances of his pride and indiscretion, one of which is too remarkable to be omitted :—

He set out one day with Mr. Crawford and a Prussian gentleman, to dine with Mr. V—, a Dutch merchant, residing at Muswell Hill. In his way thither he quitted his company, and, by crossing the fields, got to the house before them. When he came there, he took such offence at something Mr. V— said, in some trifling dispute which happened between them, that he called him a fool, and proceeded from one outrage to another, till Mr. V— ordered his servants to turn him out of doors, which was done before his companions, Crawford and the Prussian, got there. Yet Stirn, when they came back in the evening, fell into another fit of rage against them, and charged them with having got to Mr. V—'s before him, and concealed themselves in another room, to enjoy the injurious treatment which Mr. V— was prepared to offer him ; insisting that he had heard them rejoicing and laughing at his disgrace.

While he lived with Mr. Crawford he became acquainted with Mr. Matthews, a surgeon in the neighborhood, who advertised the cure of fistulas, and other disorders of the like kind. Matthews is said to have insinuated to Stirn, that, though Crawford professed great friendship for him, yet his intention was only to keep him in a state of poverty and dependence, and to render his abilities subservient to his own advantage, without giving him a valuable consideration ; telling him that it was in his power to provide much better for himself. From this time Stirn's behaviour to Mr. Crawford was very different from what it had been before, and Mr. Crawford was proportionably

less satisfied ; so that, though he still continued with him, yet Crawford says that he now kept him merely from the regard he had to him and his family.

Soon after this, Matthews made him a proposal to come and live with him, offering him an apartment, ready furnished, and his board, upon condition that he should teach Mrs. Matthews and her daughter music, and Matthews himself the classics. This proposal Stirn inclined to accept ; but Mr. Crawford, hearing of it, endeavored to persuade Matthews to retract it, telling him that Stirn had failings which would render him a very troublesome inmate. Matthews, who seems to have had neither a good opinion of Crawford, nor good will towards him, immediately told Stirn that he had been attempting to persuade him to go back from his proposals, and mentioned also the reasons he gave for so doing. This threw Stirn into a rage, and he expressed his resentment to Crawford in strong terms, and with a boisterous behaviour.

Stirn soon after accepted Matthews's proposal ; and Matthews offered to secure him a continuance of what he had offered for twelve months, by writing ; but Stirn refused the obligation, saying that his honour was sufficient.

Crawford, having failed in persuading Matthews not to receive Stirn, now endeavored to prevail upon Stirn not to go to Matthews ; and therefore, though he says he would not have kept him so long but in regard to Stirn himself and his friends, he now offered to raise his salary, that he might keep him longer, at greater expense.

But this offer was refused, and Stirn took possession of his apartment at Matthews's house : a very little time, however, was sufficient

to show that they could not long continue together. Stirn's pride, and his situation in life, concurred to render him so jealous of indignity, and so ingenious in discovering oblique reproach and insult in the behaviour of those about him, that, finding one evening, after he came home, some pieces of bread in the dining-room, which had been left there by a child of the family, he immediately took it into his head that they were left there as reproachful emblems of his poverty, which obliged him to subsist on the fragments of charity. This thought set him on fire in a moment; he ran furiously up stairs, and, knocking loudly and suddenly at Mr. Matthews's chamber-door, called out 'Mr. Matthews!' He was answered by Mrs. Matthews, who was in bed, that Mr. Matthews was not there; but he still elamorously insisted on the door being opened, so that Mrs. Matthews was obliged to rise, and, having put on her clothes, came out, and asked him what he wanted, and what he meant by such behaviour. He answered that he wanted Mr. Matthews, and that he knew he was in the room. It happened that at this instant Mr. Matthews knocked at the street-door, and put an end to the dispute with his wife. The moment Mr. Matthews entered the house, Stirn in a furious manner charged him with an intention to affront him by the crusts. Mr. Matthews assured him that he meant no such thing, and that the bread was carried thither by the child: Mrs. Matthews also confirmed it, and Stirn was at length pacified. He seems to have been conscious of the strange impropriety of his conduct as soon as he had time for reflection; for the next morning he went to Mr. Crawford, and expressed a most grateful sense of

Mr. and Mrs. Matthews's patience and kindness in suffering, and passing over, his fantastic behaviour.

It is, however, probable, that, from this time, they began to live together upon very ill terms. Matthews soon after gave him warning to quit his house, and Stirn refused to go. What particular offences had been given on each side does not appear; but they had been carried to such lengths, that Crawford consulted Mr. Welch, a Middlesex justice, about them, on Stirn's behalf. What directions he received are not known; but, on Wednesday, the 13th of August, Stirn having been then in Mr. Matthews's family about two months, Matthews went to a friend upon Dowgate Hill, whose name was Lowther, and, telling him that Stirn had behaved so ill he could no longer keep him in his house, and that he had refused to quit it, requested his advice and assistance to get rid of him. Mr. Lowther then went with Mr. Matthews to Mr. Welch, who, finding there was no legal contract between them, told Matthews he might turn Stirn out when he pleased, without notice. Matthews then determining to turn him out that night, Mr. Welch desired he would be cautious, and advised him to get a couple of friends to be with him; and, when Stirn came in, first to desire him to go away peaceably, and, if he refused, to lead him out by the arm. Matthews then said he was a desperate man, and, if he should offer any rudeness to him, would make no scruple of stabbing him. He was then advised to take a peace-officer with him; and, having now received sufficient instructions, he went away with his friend, determined to put them in execution.

While Matthews and his friend were at Mr. Welch's, Stirn was



making his complaint to Mr. Crawford, whom he met at Bartlett's Buildings Coffee-house, near Holborn. He told him, with great emotion, that Mr. Matthews had villainously and unjustly charged him with having alienated the affection of his wife, and, by her means, having had access to his purse.

Mr. Crawford, who appears to have known that Matthews had warned Stirn to be gone, and that Stirn had refused to go, advised him, as the best way of removing Matthews's suspicions, immediately to quit his house. Upon this he started up in a violent rage, and told him, if he spoke another word, he would——, and muttered something else to himself, which Mr. Crawford could not hear. But the next moment he told him that he and Mr. Chapman (a surgeon in the neighborhood) had conspired with Mr. Matthews to ruin his character, and oblige him to quit England with infamy. After some farther altercation he sat down, and appeared somewhat more composed; but, on a sudden, started up again, with new fury in his look, and said his honour was wounded, his character ruined, and his bread lost; that, under such circumstances, he could not live; and that; if Matthews scandalously turned him out of his house, which he seems to have threatened, he would be revenged. Mr. Crawford attempted some farther expostulation; but finding it in vain, and it being now near eleven o'clock, he accompanied him to Mr. Matthews's door, and there left him: but, though he was in a temper that made expostulation hopeless, yet, he says, he left him, as he thought, in a disposition to do as he advised him.

Matthews, in the mean time, had got two friends, of whom Mr.

Lowther was one, and a constable; and, having removed all that belonged to Mr. Stirn out of his room into the passage, they were waiting for his coming in; Matthews having determined to turn him into the street at that time of the night, and leave him to get a lodging where he could.

When Stirn knocked at the door it was opened to him by Lowther; and upon entering the passage, and seeing his clothes and other things lying in it, he cried out, with great passion, 'Who has done this?' Matthews replied 'I have done it. You told me you would not leave my house but by force, and now I am determined you shall go.' Stirn then reproached Matthews with being a bad man, and told him that he was a coward, and would not have dared thus to insult him if he had not procured persons to abet and assist him. Some farther words passed on both sides; after which Matthews desired Stirn to take a glass of wine, there being then wine and glasses upon the table; and said 'Let us part friendly.' Stirn then said he would not go till he had played his last tune; and, there being a spinnet in the room, he went and struck it five or six times: then he said 'I want but half a guinea; you may do what you will with my clothes and books.' Matthews replied 'If you will tell me what you want with half a guinea, and have not so much, I will lend you the money.' Stirn then put his hand in his pocket, and, taking out some money, looked at it, and said 'No, I have as much money as I want; I have spoken to a man to-day who will write my life and yours.' 'Have a care,' said Matthews, 'what you say; you have before said enough for me to lay you by the heels.' 'Why, what have I

said before?' said Stirn. 'Why, you have said,' replied Matthews, 'that Crawford might thank his God he had got rid of you in the manner he had: but that you would have your revenge of me.' Stirn then desired Matthews to give him his hand; and Matthews stretching it out, Stirn grasped it in both his, and said 'I have said so, and, here is my hand, I will have revenge of you.' After this a good deal of opprobrious language passed between them; and then Stirn went out of the house with the constable, though not in his custody.

Where this forlorn and infatuated creature passed the night does not appear; nor is any thing related of the transactions of the next day, Thursday, the 14th, except that Mr. Chapman endeavored to procure a meeting of the parties with himself and Mr. Crawford that evening, but without success, Mr. Matthews being unfortunately from home when he called to make the appointment. It appears, however, from divers circumstances which happened afterwards, that, on that day, Stirn bought a pair of pistols, and that, having loaded them, he sent Mr. Matthews a challenge, which Matthews refused to accept; and it is probable that from this time he resolved upon the murder, no other means of revenge being left him. On Friday morning, the 15th, Mr. Crawford, hearing that Stirn was in great anxiety and distress of mind, gave him an invitation to dinner. This invitation he accepted, and behaved with great propriety and politeness till after the cloth was taken away; but just then he started up, as if stung by some sudden thought, and uttered several invectives against Matthews; saying that none but an execrable villain could impute

to him the horrid character of a thief and adulterer. He said this without any mention having been made of his own situation, or of Mr. Matthews's name, and soon after went away.

About half an hour after five, the same evening, as Mr. Crawford was going down Cross Street, Stirn overtook him. Crawford at this time discovered such an expression of despair in his countenance that he suspected he had formed a design to destroy himself, especially as it was said he had made an attempt of that kind six months before.

Stirn turned the conversation principally upon the point of honour, and the proper means of maintaining it. Crawford, who saw him greatly moved, so as frequently to start and change colour, turned the discourse to religion; but, observing he gained no attention, he hoped to sooth his mind by mentioning the prospect he still had of doing well; but Stirn then hastily interrupted him: 'Who,' says he, 'will entertain a person under the horrid character of an adulterer and a thief? No, sir; I am lost both to God and to the world.'

Mr. Crawford then told him that, if he should fail of success here, he would assist him with money to return to his brother. 'To my brother!' says Stirn, in an agony; 'neither my brother nor my country can receive me under the disgrace of such crimes as are imputed to me.' As he pronounced these words he burst into tears; and Mr. Crawford, not being able longer to support the effect of such a conversation upon his mind, was obliged to take his leave.

Mr. Crawford, in order to recollect himself, went out into the fields, where he could not help

musings on what had passed; and finding his suspicions, that Stirn intended to destroy himself, grow stronger and stronger, he determined to return, and endeavour to find him out a second time.

It happened that about half an hour after eight o'clock he met with him at Owen's Coffee-house, where the conversation upon his quarrel with Matthews was renewed, though with much more temper than before; yet Stirn often started, saying he expected that every one who opened the door was Matthews.

While he was at Owen's Coffee-house he called for a pint of porter and some potatoes, which he devoured ravenously, though he had supped before, and drank a pint of porter and three gills of wine.

About ten o'clock he got up, and said he would go to Mr. Pugh's. Pugh kept an alehouse, the sign of the Pewter Platter, in Cross Street, Hatton Garden, next door to Crawford's school, where Crawford, Matthews, Chapman, and other persons in the neighborhood, frequently met to spend the evening.

Mr. Crawford endeavored to persuade him to go home to his lodgings; upon which Stirn, without making any reply, caught him by the hand, and pressed it with such violence as almost to force the blood out at his fingers' ends.

They went together to Mr. Pugh's door, where Mr. Crawford left him, and went home. Stirn went into the neighbours' room at the Pewter Platter, where he found Matthews, who had been to see Foote's farce, called *The Minor*, in the Haymarket, and with him Mr. Chapman and Mr. Lowther: several other persons were in the room, but not of the same company.

Stirn sat down at the same table with Matthews and his friends; but

Chapman, perceiving by his gestures and countenance that he was in great agitation, called him out, and admonished him not to do any thing that might have disagreeable consequences either to himself or others. After this Stirn returned alone into the room, and Chapman went home. Stirn walked about the room by himself, and in the mean time Mr. Crawford came in, having heard who were in company, and fearing some fatal effect of Stirn's passion, which he hoped he might contribute to prevent.

Stirn, after some time, applying himself to Mr. Matthews, said, 'Sir, you have accused me of theft and adultery.' Matthews denied the charge; but said, if his wife's virtue had not been more to be depended upon than *his* honour, he did not know what might have been the consequence.

After some mutual reproaches Matthews called him a dirty fellow, and said he ought to be sent into his own lousy country. Stirn after this took two or three turns about the room without reply, and then took a small piece of paper out of his pocket, and held it some time in his hand, with a design that Matthews should take notice of it; but Matthews not regarding it, he held it in the candle till it was burnt: he then walked about the room for a few minutes more, and Crawford, observing uncommon fury and desperation in his looks, desired the company to drink his health. Mr. Lowther immediately did so, and, as he thinks, so did Mr. Matthews too; after which Stirn still walked about the room, but in a few minutes came and stood at Mr. Crawford's elbow. Mr. Lowther sat next to Mr. Crawford, and Mr. Matthews next to Mr. Lowther. He then went and stood between Mr. Lowther and Mr. Crawford;



and, having continued there about a minute, or a minute and a half, he drew out the two pistols he had procured for the duel, wrapped up in a piece of paper, and, stretching his arm across the table before Mr. Lowther, he discharged one of them at Matthews's breast, who gave a sudden start, and then, falling forward, died instantly without a groan. Stirn, almost at the same moment, discharged the other at himself; but, by some accident, the ball missed him, without doing any other damage. As soon as the smoke was dissipated, and the company recovered from their first astonishment and confusion, Stirn was seen standing as it were torpid with amazement and horror. On perceiving the attention of all that were in the room turned upon him, he seemed to recollect himself, and made towards the door; but a person in the room, whose name was Warford, seized him, and, after some struggle, pulled him to the ground. Lowther immediately went up to him, and Stirn cried out, 'Shoot me! shoot me! shoot me, for I shall be hanged.' Somebody then saying 'Matthews is dead,' Stirn replied 'I am not sorry, but I am sorry that I did not shoot myself.'

After his commitment he obstinately refused all kinds of food, with a view to starve himself, that he might avoid the infamy of a public death by the hands of the executioner: he persisted in this abstinence till the Friday following, the 22d of August, being just a week, drinking only a dish or two of coffee, and a little wine. This conduct he endeavored to justify by saying that his life was forfeited both by the law of God and man, and that it was not lawful even for the government to pardon him; and what does it signify, says he, by

whose hands this forfeit is paid? The Ordinary, indeed, told him, in answer to this argument, that his life was not in his own power, and that as he did not, and could not; give it to himself, so neither had he a right to take it away. It is indeed a pity that upon this occasion the Ordinary was master of no better argument, for the one he used against Stirn's right to take away his own life would prove that his life could not be lawfully taken away by any other; for, if Stirn had not a right to take away his own life, because he did not and could not give it to himself, the hangman, as he could no more give life than Stirn, had no more right to take it away. He was, however, urged to eat by arguments addressed to his passions; for he was told that he would incur more infamy by suicide than by hanging, as his body would be dragged like that of a brute to a hole dug to receive it in a cross-road, and a stake would be afterwards driven through it, which would remain as a monument of disgrace. These arguments, however, were without effect, for he never afterwards ate any solid food.

On Wednesday, the 10th of September, 1760, having then in some degree recovered his strength, he was brought to the bar and arraigned; he was then decently dressed in a suit of black cloth, but, contrary to the general expectation, he pleaded not guilty, and requested that his trial might be put off till Friday the 12th, which was granted.

On the 12th he was brought to the bar again, but, instead of his suit of black, he appeared in a green night-gown: he had been advised to feign himself mad, but this advice he rejected with disdain.

During his trial, which lasted

about four hours, he was often ready to faint; he was therefore indulged with a seat, and several refreshments. When sentence was passed upon him he quite fainted away; but, being recovered by the application of spirits, he requested the Court that he might be permitted to go to the place of execution in the coach with the clergyman; upon which the Court told him that was in the sheriff's breast, but that such a favour, if granted, would be contrary to the intention of the law which had been lately made to distinguish murders by exemplary punishment: upon this he made a profound reverence to the Court, and was taken back to prison.

About six o'clock the same evening he was visited by the Ordinary, who found in the press-yard a German, who said he was a minister whom Stirn had desired might attend him: the Ordinary therefore took him up with him to Stirn's chamber, he having been removed from the cells by the assistance of some friends. They found him lying on his bed; and, as he expressed great uneasiness at the presence of the Ordinary, and a prisoner that had been set over him as a guard, they withdrew, and left him alone with his countryman. Soon after this an alarm was given that Stirn was extremely ill, and supposed to have taken poison: he was immediately visited by the sheriff, and Mr. Akerman, the keeper of the prison, who found him in a state of stupefaction, but not yet convulsed: a surgeon was procured, and several methods tried to discharge his stomach of the poison, but without effect; he was then let blood, which apparently rendered him worse.

About nine o'clock he was pale and speechless, his jaw was fallen,

and his eyes were fixed; and about five minutes before eleven he expired.

It does not appear what reason Matthews had for charging Stirn with an attempt upon his wife, but Stirn solemnly declared in his last moments that there was none. He expressed many obligations to Mr. Crawford, who often visited him in prison with great kindness and humanity; and, perhaps, if he had been in a situation more suitable not only to his hopes, but to his merit and his birth, he would have been less jealous of affronts, and, conscious of undisputed dignity, would have treated rudeness and slander with contempt, instead of pursuing them with revenge.

He spent his life in perpetual transitions from outrage and fury to remorse and regret—one hour drawing his sword upon his dearest friends to revenge some imaginary affront, and the next lamenting his folly, and entreating their pardon with contrition and tears. How many are they whose keen sensibility and violence of temper keep them nearly in the same situation, though they have not yet been pushed to the same excess! Let such remember that no human being can say to the passions of the mind, any more than to the waves of the sea, 'Hitherto shall ye go, but here shall ye be stayed.'

If, by this mournful example, some of these shall be warned gradually to weaken their vehemence of temper by restraint, instead of giving it new force by habit, neither Stirn nor Matthews will have died in vain: they will have reason to say, upon this occasion, 'that God, in the midst of judgment, has remembered mercy; and that, by the stripes of others, they have been healed.'



*Earl Ferrers shooting Mr. Johnson, his Steward.*

### LAURENCE EARL FERRERS, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

FROM the royal blood of the Plantagenets was the house of Ferrers descended, and had been distinguished for ages. One of the family was slain, while fighting on behalf of the crown, at the memorable battle of Shrewsbury, in the beginning of the reign of Henry IV.—a circumstance that is mentioned by the immortal Shakspeare.

Laurence Earl Ferrers was a man of an unhappy disposition. Though of clear intellects, and acknowledged abilities when sober, yet an early attachment to drinking greatly impaired his faculties; and, when drunk, his behaviour was that of a madman.

Lord Ferrers married the youngest daughter of Sir William Meridith, in the year 1752, but behaved to her with such unwarrantable

cruelty that she was obliged to apply to Parliament for redress: the consequence of which was that an act passed for allowing her a separate maintenance, to be raised out of his estates.

The following will afford a specimen of the brutality of Lord Ferrers' behaviour: Some oysters had been sent from London, which not proving good, his lordship directed one of the servants to swear that the carrier had changed them; but the servant declining to take such an oath, the earl flew on him in a rage, stabbed him in the breast with a knife, cut his head with a candlestick, and kicked him on the groin with such severity, that he was incapable of a retention of urine for several years afterwards.

Lord Ferrers' brother and his



wife paying a visit to him and his countess at Stanton-Harold, some dispute arose between the parties; and Lady Ferrers being absent from the room, the earl ran up stairs with a large clasp-knife in his hand, and asked a servant whom he met where his lady was. The man said, 'In her own room;' and, being directed to follow him thither, Lord Ferrers ordered him to load a brace of pistols with bullets. This order was complied with; but the servant, apprehensive of mischief, declined priming the pistols, which Lord Ferrers discovering, he swore at him, asked him for powder, and primed them himself. He then threatened that, if he did not immediately go and shoot his brother, the captain, he would blow his brains out. The servant hesitating, his lordship pulled the trigger of one of the pistols; but it missed fire. Hereupon the countess dropped on her knees, and begged him to appease his passions; but in return he swore at her, and threatened her destruction if she opposed him. The servant now escaped from the room, and reported what had passed to his lordship's brother, who immediately called his wife from her bed, and they left the house, though it was then two o'clock in the morning.

The unfortunate Mr. Johnson, who fell a sacrifice to the ungovernable passions of Lord Ferrers, had been bred up in the family from his youth, and was distinguished for the regular manner in which he kept his accounts, and his fidelity as a steward.

When the law had decreed a separate maintenance for the countess, Mr. Johnson was proposed as receiver of the rents for her use; but he declined this office till urged to take it on him by the earl himself. It appears that Johnson now

stood high in his lordship's opinion: but a different scene soon ensued; for, the earl having conceived an opinion that Johnson had combined with the trustees to disappoint him of a contract for coal mines, he came to a resolution to destroy the honest steward.

From this time he spoke of him in opprobrious terms, said he had conspired with his enemies to injure him, and that he was a villain. With these sentiments he gave him warning to quit an advantageous farm which he held under his lordship; but, finding that the trustees under the act of separation had already granted him a lease of it, it having been promised to him by the earl or his relations, he was disappointed, and probably from that time he meditated a more cruel revenge.

He thought proper, however, to dissemble his malice to the man, as the most probable method to facilitate the gratification of it; so that poor Johnson was deceived into an opinion that he never was upon better terms with his lord in his life than at the very time he was contriving to destroy him.

His lordship at this time lived at Stanton, a seat about two miles from Ashby de la Zouch, in Leicestershire, and his family consisted of himself, Mrs. Clifford, a lady who lived with him, and her four natural daughters; and five servants—an old man and a boy, and three maids. Mr. Johnson lived at the house belonging to the farm, which he held under his lordship, called the Lount, about half a mile distant from Stanton.

On Sunday, the 13th of January, 1760, my lord went to the Lount, and, after some discourse with Mr. Johnson, ordered him to come to him at Stanton on the Friday following, the 18th, at three o'clock

in the afternoon. My lord's hour of dinner was two ; and soon after dinner, Mrs. Clifford being in the still-house, his lordship came to her, and told her that she and the children might fetch a walk. Mrs. Clifford, who seems to have considered this an order to go out, prepared herself and the young ladies immediately, and asked whether they might go to her father's, which was not far off ; to which he assented, and said they might stay till half an hour after five. The two men servants he also contrived to send out of the way, so that there was no one in the house but himself and the three maids.

In a very short time after the house was thus cleared Mr. Johnson came, and was let in by Elizabeth Burgeland, one of the maids. He asked if his lordship was within ; and the girl replied Yes, he was in his room : Mr. Johnson immediately went, and knocked at the door ; and my lord came to the door, and ordered him to wait in the still-house.

After he had been there about ten minutes his lordship came out again, and, calling him to his own room, went in with him, and immediately locked the door. When they were thus together, my lord first ordered him to settle an account, and, after a little time, produced a paper to him, purporting, as he said, to be a confession of his villainy, and required him to sign it. Johnson refused and expostulated, and his lordship then drawing a pistol, which he had charged and kept in his pocket for the purpose, presented it, and bid him kneel down. The poor man then knelt down upon one knee ; but Lord Ferrers cried out, so loud as to be heard by one of the maids at the kitchen door, 'Down on your

other knee ; declare what you have acted against Lord Ferrers ; your time is come—you must die ;' and then immediately fired. The ball entered his body just below the last rib, yet he did not drop, but rose up, and expressed the sensations of a dying man both by his looks and by such broken sentences as are usually uttered in such situations. My lord, though he at first intended to shoot him again, upon finding he did not drop, was yet forced out of that resolution by involuntary remorse, upon the complaints of the poor man, and the dreadful change that he perceived in his countenance : he then came out of the room, having been shut up in it with the unhappy victim about half an hour ; and the report of the pistol having alarmed the women in the wash-house, he called out, 'Who is there ?' One of them soon heard and answered him : he ordered her to see for one of the men, and another to assist in getting Mr. Johnson to bed.

At this time his lordship was perfectly sober ; and, having dispatched a messenger for Mr. Kirkland, a surgeon, who lived at Ashby de la Zouch, he went back to the room where he had left Mr. Johnson with the maid, and asked him how he found himself. Johnson replied that he found himself like a dying man, and requested his lordship to send for his children : his lordship consented, and a messenger was dispatched to the Count, to tell Miss Johnson that she must come to the hall directly, for that her father was taken very ill : upon coming to the hall she soon learned what had happened, and Lord Ferrers sent one of the maids with her up to the room into which her father had been removed, and immediately followed himself. Mr.

Johnson was in bed, but did not speak to her : Lord Ferrers pulled down the clothes, and applied a pledget, dipped in arquebusade water, to the wound, and soon after left him. From the time the fact was committed Lord Ferrers continued to drink porter till he became drunk : in the mean time the messenger that had been sent for the surgeon, having at length found him at a neighboring village about five o'clock, told him that his assistance was wanted for Mr. Johnson at Stanton : he came immediately with the messenger, but in his way to Stanton called at the Lount, where he first heard that Mr. Johnson had been shot, the rumour of the accident having by that time reached all the neighboring parts.

When he came to the hall my lord told him that he had shot Johnson, but believed that he was more frightened than hurt ; that he had intended to shoot him dead, for that he was a villain, and deserved to die ; ' but,' says he, ' now I have spared his life, I desire you would do what you can for him.' My lord at the same time desired that he would not suffer him to be seized, and declared, if any one should attempt it, he would shoot him.

Mr. Kirkland, who wisely determined to say whatever might keep Lord Ferrers, who was then in liquor, from any further outrages, told him that he should not be seized.

The patient complained of a violent pain in his bowels ; and Mr. Kirkland preparing to search the wound, my lord informed him of the direction of it, by showing him how he held the pistol when he fired it. Mr. Kirkland found the ball had lodged in the body, at which his lordship expressed great surprise, declaring that he had tried

that pistol a few days before, and that it then carried a ball through a deal board near an inch and a half thick.

Mr. Kirkland then went down stairs to prepare some dressings, and my lord soon after left the room. From this time, in proportion as the liquor, which he continued to drink, took effect, his passions became more tumultuous, and the transient fit of compassion, mixed with fear for himself, gave way to starts of rage, and the predominance of malice. He went up into the room where Johnson was dying, and pulled him by the wig, calling him villain, and threatening to shoot him through the head. The last time he went to him he was with great difficulty prevented from tearing the clothes off the bed, which he attempted with great fury, that he might strike him.

A proposal was made to my lord, by Mrs. Clifford, that Mr. Johnson should be removed to his own house ; but he replied ' he shall not be removed ; I will keep him here to plague the villain.' Many of these expressions were uttered in the hearing of Miss Johnson, whose sufferings in such a situation it is easier to conceive than express ; yet, after his abuse of her father, he told her that if he died he would take care of her and of the family, provided they did not prosecute.

When his lordship went to bed, which was between eleven and twelve, he told Mr. Kirkland that he knew he could, if he would, set the affair in such a light as to prevent his being seized, desiring that he might see him before he went away in the morning, and declaring that he would rise at any hour.

Mr. Kirkland, for his own sake, was very solicitous to get Mr. Johnson removed, because, if he died



where he was, contrary to the assurances he had given his lordship, he had reason to think his own life would be in danger. As soon as my lord was in bed, therefore, he went and told Mr. Johnson that he would take care he should be removed with all expedition.

He accordingly went to the Lount, and, having fitted up an easy chair, with two poles, by way of a sedan, and procured a gnard, he returned about two o'clock, and carried Mr. Johnson to his house, without much fatigue, where he languished till about nine the next morning, and then expired.

As soon as he was dead the neighbours set about seizing the murderer: a few persons, armed, set out for Stanton, and, as they entered the hall-yard, they saw him going towards the stable, as they imagined, to take horse. He appeared to be just out of bed, his stockings being down, and his garters in his hand, having probably taken the alarm immediately on coming out of his room, and finding that Johnson had been removed.

One Springthorpe, advancing towards his lordship, presented a pistol, and required him to surrender; but my lord putting his hand to his pocket, Springthorpe imagined he was feeling for a pistol, and stopped short, being probably intimidated, and suffered his lordship to escape back into the house, where he fastened the doors, and stood upon his defence.

The concourse of people who had come to apprehend him beset the house, and their number increased very fast. In about two hours my lord appeared at the garret window, and called out 'How is Johnson?' Springthorpe answered 'He is dead;' upon which my lord insulted him, called him liar, and swore he would not believe any

body but Kirkland. Upon being again assured he was dead, he desired the people might be dispersed, and said he would surrender; yet, almost in the same breath, he desired the people might be let in, and have some victuals and drink; but the issue was, he went away from the window, swearing he would not be taken.

The people, however, still continued near the house; and, about two hours after his lordship had appeared at the garret window, he was seen by one Curtis, a collier, upon the bowling-green: my lord was then armed with a blunderbuss, two or three pistols, and a dagger; but Curtis, so far from being intimidated, marched up boldly to him, in spite of his blunderbuss; and my lord was so struck with the determined resolution that appeared in this brave fellow, that he suffered him to seize him without making the least resistance; yet, the moment he was in custody, declared he had killed a villain, and that he gloried in the act.

He was carried from Stanton to a public house, kept by one Kinsey, at Ashby de la Zouch, where he was kept till the Monday following, during which time the coroner had sat upon the body, and the jury had brought in their verdict—'Wilful murder.'

From Ashby de la Zouch he was sent to Leicester gaol; from thence, about a fortnight afterwards, he was brought in his own landau and six, under a strong guard, to London, where he arrived on the 14th of February, about noon, dressed like a jockey, in a close riding-frock, jockey boots and cap, and a plain shirt.

Being carried before the House of Lords, he was committed to the custody of the Black Rod, and ordered to the Tower, where he

arrived about six o'clock in the evening, having behaved, during the whole journey, and at his commitment, with great calmness and propriety. He was confined in the Round Tower, near the drawbridge: two wardens were constantly in the room with him, and one at the door; two sentinels were posted at the bottom of the stairs, and one upon the drawbridge, with their bayonets fixed; and from this time the gates were ordered to be shut an hour sooner than usual.

Mrs. Clifford and the four young ladies, who had come up with him from Leicestershire, took a lodging in Tower Street, and for some time a servant was continually passing with letters between them; but afterwards this correspondence was permitted only once a day.

During his confinement he was moderate both in eating and drinking; his breakfast was a half-pint basin of tea, with a small spoonful of brandy in it, and a muffin; with his dinner he generally drank a pint of wine and a pint of water, and another pint of each with his supper. In general his behaviour was decent and quiet, except that he would sometimes suddenly start, tear open his waistcoat, and use other gestures, which showed that his mind was disturbed.

Mrs. Clifford came three times to the Tower to see him, but was not admitted; but his children were suffered to be with him some time.

On the 16th of April, having been a prisoner in the Tower two months and two days, he was brought to his trial, which continued till the 18th, before the House of Lords, assembled for that purpose; Lord Henley, Keeper of the Great Seal, having been created Lord High Steward upon the occasion.

The fact was easily proved, and his lordship, in his defence, examined several witnesses to prove his insanity; none of whom proved such an insanity as made him not accountable for his conduct. His lordship managed his defence himself, in such a manner as showed perfect recollection of mind, and an uncommon understanding; he mentioned the situation of being reduced to the necessity of attempting to prove himself a lunatic, that he might not be deemed a murderer, with the most delicate and affecting sensibility; and, when he found that his plea could not avail him, he confessed that he made it only to gratify his friends; that he was always averse to it himself; and that it had prevented what he had proposed, and what perhaps might have taken off the malignity, at least, of the accusation.

His lordship, immediately upon conviction, received sentence to be hanged on Monday, the 21st of April, and then to be anatomized; but, in consideration of his rank, the execution of this sentence was resuspended till Monday, the 5th of May.

During this interval he made a will, by which he left one thousand three hundred pounds to Mr. Johnson's children; one thousand pounds to each of his four natural daughters; and sixty pounds a year to Mrs. Clifford for her life. This will, however, being made after his conviction, was not valid; yet it was said that the same, or nearly the same, provision was made for the parties.

In the mean time a scaffold was erected under the gallows at Tyburn, and part of it, about a yard square, was raised about eighteen inches above the rest of the floor, with a contrivance to sink down upon a signal given; and the whole was covered with black baize.

In the morning of the 5th of May, about nine o'clock, his body was demanded of the keeper, at the gates of the Tower, by the sheriffs of London and Middlesex. His lordship, being informed of it, sent a message to the sheriffs, requesting that he might go in his own landau, instead of the mourning coach which had been provided by his friends; and this request being granted, he entered his landau, drawn by six horses, with Mr. Humphries, Chaplain of the Tower, who had been admitted to his lordship that morning, for the first time: the landau was conducted to the outer gate of the Tower by the officers of that fortress, and was there delivered to the sheriffs.

Here Mr. Sheriff Vaillant entered the landau of his lordship, and, expressing his concern at having so melancholy a duty to perform, his lordship said 'He was much obliged to him, and took it kindly that he accompanied him.'

He was dressed in a suit of light-colored clothes, embroidered with silver, said to be his wedding suit; and, soon after Mr. Vaillant came into the landau, he said 'You may, perhaps, Sir, think it strange to see me in this dress; but I have my particular reasons for it.'

The procession then began in the following order:—

A very large body of constables for the county of Middlesex, preceded by one of the high constables.

A party of horse-grenadiers, and a party of foot.

Mr. Sheriff Errington in his chariot, accompanied by his under-sheriff, Mr. Jackson.

The landau, escorted by two other parties of horse-grenadiers and foot.

Mr. Sheriff Vaillant's carriage, in which was his under-sheriff, Mr. Nichols.

A mourning-coach and six, with some of his lordship's friends.

A hearse and six, which was provided for the conveyance of his lordship's corpse from the place of execution to Surgeons' Hall.

The procession moved so slow, that my lord was two hours and three quarters in his landau; but during the whole time he appeared perfectly easy and composed, though he often expressed his desire to have it over, saying that 'the apparatus of death, and the passing through such crowds of people, were ten times worse than death itself.'

He told the sheriff that he had written to the king to beg 'that he might suffer where his ancestor, the Earl of Essex, had suffered; and was in greater hopes of obtaining that favour, as he had the honour of quartering part of the same arms, and of being allied to his majesty; and that he thought it was hard that he must die at the place appointed for the execution of common felons.'

Mr. Humphries took occasion to observe, that 'the world would naturally be very inquisitive concerning the religion his lordship professed, and asked him if he chose to say any thing upon that subject.' To which his lordship answered, 'That he did not think himself accountable to the world for his sentiments on religion; but that he had always believed in and adored one God, the Maker of all things;—that, whatever his notions were, he had never propagated them, or endeavored to gain any persons over to his persuasion;—that all countries and nations had a form of religion by which the people were governed, and that he looked upon whoever disturbed them in it as an enemy to society.—That he very much blamed my Lord



Bolingbroke for permitting his sentiments on religion to be published to the world.—That the many facts and disputes which happen about religion have almost turned morality out of doors.—That he never could believe what some sectaries teach, that faith alone will save mankind; so that if a man, just before he dies, should say only “I believe,” that *that* alone will save him.’

As to the crime for which he suffered, he declared ‘that he was under particular circumstances—that he had met with so many crosses and vexations, he scarce knew what he did;’ and most solemnly protested ‘that he had not the least malice against Mr. Johnson.’

When his lordship had got to that part of Holborn which is near Drury Lane, he said ‘he was thirsty, and should be glad of a glass of wine and water;’ upon which the sheriff’s remonstrating to him, ‘that a stop for that purpose would necessarily draw a greater crowd about him, which might possibly disturb and incommode him, yet, if his lordship still desired it, it should be done,’ he most readily answered, ‘that’s true—I say no more—let us by no means stop.’

When they approached near the place of execution, his lordship told the sheriff ‘that there was a person waiting in a coach near there, for whom he had a very sincere regard, and of whom he should be glad to take his leave before he died;’ to which the sheriff answered, that, ‘if his lordship insisted upon it, it should be so; but that he wished his lordship, for his own sake, would decline it, lest the sight of a person, for whom he had such a regard, should unman him, and disarm him of the fortitude he possessed.’—To which his lordship,

without the least hesitation, replied, ‘Sir, if you think I am wrong, I submit;’ and upon the sheriff telling his lordship that if he had any thing to deliver to that person, or any one else, he would faithfully do it, his lordship delivered to him a pocket-book, in which were a bank-note and a ring, and a purse with some guineas, in order to be delivered to that person, which were delivered accordingly.

The landau being now advanced to the place of execution, his lordship alighted from it, and ascended upon the scaffold with the same composure and fortitude of mind he had possessed from the time he left the Tower. Soon after he had mounted the scaffold, Mr. Humphries asked his lordship if he chose to say prayers; which he declined; but, upon his asking him ‘if he did not choose to join with him in the Lord’s Prayer,’ he readily answered ‘he would, for he always thought it a very fine prayer;’ upon which they knelt down together upon two cushions, covered with black baize; and his lordship, with an audible voice, very devoutly repeated the Lord’s Prayer, and afterwards, with great energy, the following ejaculation: ‘O God, forgive me all my errors—pardon all my sins!’

His lordship, then rising, took his leave of the sheriff and the chaplain; and, after thanking them for their many civilities, he presented his watch to Mr. Sheriff Vaillant, which he desired his acceptance of; and requested that his body might be buried at Breden or Stanton, in Leicestershire.

His lordship then called for the executioner, who immediately came to him, and asked him forgiveness; upon which his lordship said ‘I freely forgive you, as I do all mankind, and hope myself to be for-

given.' He then intended to give the executioner five guineas, but, by mistake, giving it into the hands of the executioner's assistant, an unseasonable dispute ensued between those unthinking and unfeeling wretches, which Mr. Sheriff Vailant instantly silenced.

The executioner then proceeded to do his duty, to which his lordship, with great resignation, submitted. His neckcloth being taken off, a white cap, which he had brought in his pocket, being put upon his head, his arms secured by a black sash, and the cord put round his neck, he advanced by three steps to the elevated part of the scaffold, and, standing under the cross-beam which went over it, which was also covered with black baize, he asked the executioner 'Am I right?' Then the cap was drawn over his face, and, upon a signal given by the sheriff, (for his lordship, upon being before asked, declined to give one himself,) that part upon which he stood instantly sunk down from beneath his feet, and he was launched into eternity May the 5th, 1760.

From the time of his lordship's ascending upon the scaffold, until his execution, was about eight minutes; during which his countenance did not change, nor his tongue falter.

The accustomed time of one hour being past, the coffin was raised up, with the greatest decency, to receive the body; and, being deposited in the hearse, was conveyed by the sheriffs, with the same procession, to Surgeons' Hall, to undergo the remainder of the sentence.

A large incision was made from the neck to the bottom of the breast, and another across the throat; the lower part of the belly was laid open, and the bowels taken away. It was afterwards publicly exposed to view in a room up one pair of stairs at the Hall; and on the evening of Thursday, the 8th of May, it was delivered to his friends for interment.

The following verse is said to have been found in his apartment:

'In doubt I liv'd, in doubt I die,  
Yet stand prepared the vast abyss to try,  
And, undismayed, expect eternity.'

## PATRICK M'CARTY,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

HAD this malefactor's execution been deferred but one single day, he might, in all probability, have survived many years; as the day after, early in the morning, King George II. died; and the succeeding monarch, in order that all may hail with joy his accession, according to ancient custom, grants a general amnesty and pardon to criminals.

A Marshalsea writ having been issued against M'Carty, an officer of that court, of the name of William Talbot, was employed to execute the warrant granted thereon.

He met the defendant near Drury Lane, and told him that he had a warrant against him, when M'Carty asked 'at whose suit?' Being informed, he requested the officer to step with him into the King's Head public house, the corner of Prince's Street. They had not been many minutes in the house, when, without any harsh words having passed between them, M'Carty suddenly drew from his pocket a large knife, stabbed the officer to the heart, and then ran off. He was, however, pursued, and taken by a soldier, in Vere Street, Clare Market, and

carried before Sir John Fielding, who committed him to Newgate.

At the next sessions he was convicted of this wanton murder; and executed at the bottom of Bow Street, Covent Garden, October the 24th, 1760.

It must be admitted that this unfortunate man was seized with a sudden gust of passion, the effect of desperation. He could have had no ill will against the officer; the

dread of confinement, and perhaps ruin, must alone have impelled him to the fatal act. So may his fate be another lesson on the necessity of curbing our passions!

This malefactor was born in Ireland, and, like a great majority of the lower order of people there, was a Roman Catholic. He was attended by a priest of that persuasion, and appeared to die under its consolation.

### ISAAC DARKING, *ALIAS* DUMAS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

This malefactor was born in Eastcheap, where his father carried on the business of a cork-cutter. While very young he gave pregnant proofs of his attachment to what is called pleasure: a life of gaiety and dissipation had too many charms for him; and he was hailed among the young rakes, and even the ladies of the town, as a youth of very superior qualifications.

His attachment to women was remarkable; and this leading him into great expense, he had recourse to the highway to support his extravagance; the consequence of which was that he was apprehended, and, being tried at Chelmsford, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but, being then very young, the judge respited him till the following assizes, when he obtained a pardon, on the condition of transportation for fourteen years.

Previous, however, to his being transported, the prisoners had formed a design of murdering the keeper, turnkey, &c. in order to effect their escape; and Darking having obtained some knowledge of the secret, he made a discovery of it; the consequence of which was that his sentence of transportation was remitted, on the terms of his

serving as a soldier in the plantations.

Hereupon he was conducted to the Savoy prison in London, whence he made several efforts to escape; but, not succeeding, he at length sailed with many others, and was put on shore at Antigua; but the life of a soldier being highly disagreeable to him, he determined to quit the service without permission as soon as possible.

He had not been long on the island before he ingratiated himself with the captain of a ship, to whom he promised a large reward if he would land him in England. Hereupon the captain took him on board, and concealed him in the hold of the ship; so that, though diligent search was made after him, he escaped undiscovered.

On his arrival in his native country he renewed his depredations on the highway, and committed a variety of robberies in the western counties, and in the middle of the kingdom; but, apprehensive of the consequences that might ensue, he entered on board the Royal George man of war, in which he was rated as a midshipman. In the summer of the year 1760 the ship lay at Portsmouth; and Darking, getting leave of absence for some weeks,



employed this interval in committing a variety of robberies, of which the most remarkable was the following:—

Lord Percival being travelling the Bath road on the 22d of June, Darking met him near the Devizes, and presented a pistol, demanding his money on pain of instant death. The highwayman had a crape over his face. Lord Percival gave him thirteen guineas; but, dissatisfied with that sum, he insisted on having more; on which his lordship was so provoked that he forced the pistol from his hand, and, pulling him to the ground, leapt from the chaise to take him into custody. Darking now ran away, and Lord Percival pursued him. The highwayman turned about, presented a pistol, and demanded his purse: but his lordship declaring he had no more money, Darking mounted his horse, and rode off, having first desired that Lord Percival would not appear against him if he should be tried.

Being apprehended on the following day, he was committed to prison, and brought to trial at the next assizes held at Salisbury, when he was acquitted, because Lord Percival would not swear positively to his person: yet the circumstances against him were remarkably strong; for the money found on him agreed with what Lord Percival had been robbed of, a pistol was in his possession which appeared to match with that his lordship had lost, and a piece of crape was found in his pocket.

In consequence of questions asked on this trial, Darking said that he was born in the West Indies, and was quite a stranger to this country; that, on his way from Bath to Portsmouth, he had lost his road; that, on the approach of night, he went to a village to re-

fresh himself; and that, when he was apprehended, it could be no wonder that a benighted traveller should appear confused. He owned that he had friends in England; but they did not live near enough to do him any service on that occasion.

He declared that he had purchased a pair of pistols, one of which he had lost on the road, and was probably picked up by the person who committed the robbery with which he was charged. He said that the confusion he appeared in when taken arose from his being accused of a crime of which he was innocent; and accounted for the crape found in his possession by saying it was what he had worn as a neckcloth, having been in the king's service at the taking of Guadaloupe.

Darking was no sooner acquitted than he asked for some money which had been taken from him on his apprehension, which the Court directed to be delivered to him; and then the judge dismissed him, having remarked on the generosity of his prosecutor, and advised him to leave off such dangerous practices as those in which he had been concerned.

Being told he was now at his own disposal, he seemed full of anxiety till his fetters were knocked off, and then he immediately set out for London in a post-chaise.

During his confinement at Salisbury his genteel accomplishments were much the subject of tea-table conversation; and he was visited by the ladies, who seemed delighted with his discourse. These circumstances gave rise to the following lines, which were published in the newspapers on his acquittal:—

'Joy to thee, lovely thief! that thou  
Hast 'scaped the fatal string;  
Let gallows groan with ugly rogues,  
Dumas must never swing.

Dost thou seek money? to thy wants  
Our purses we'll resign;  
Could we our hearts to guineas coin,  
Those guineas all were thine.

To Bath in safety let my lord  
His loaded pockets carry;  
Thou ne'er again shall tempt the road,  
Sweet youth! if thou wilt marry.

No more shall niggard travellers  
Avoid thee;—we'll insure 'em:  
To us thou shalt consign thy balls  
And pistols;—we'll secure 'em.

Yet think not when the chains are off,  
Which now thy legs bedeck,  
To fly; in fetters softer far  
We'll chain thee by the neck.'

Darking was so distinguished by the gracefulness of his person that he was the favorite of unthinking women wherever he came; and it is probable that, after this escape at Salisbury, he might have married some woman of fortune if he could have divested himself of his unhappy turn to extravagance, which led him to the highway whenever he wanted a supply.

Soon after his return to London he commenced his former practices, infesting the roads round the metropolis for more than six months, spending at bagnios, gaming-houses, and taverns, what he acquired by his lawless practices.

His robberies near town had been so numerous that he became apprehensive of detection, and therefore retired farther into the country, where he continued to rob some time; but at length returned to London.

Having hired a horse in Piccadilly, he travelled to Oxford, where he slept; and the next day, returning towards London, he stopped a gentleman, named Gammon, near Nettlebed, and robbed him of his watch and money. Darking now turned back; but the gentleman proceeded towards town, having first stopped at an inn, and left a description of the highwayman.

Mr. Gammon had not been gone more than two hours when Darking called at the same inn, and gave the landlord two letters directed to women in London; saying that he should not go to town for two or three days, and begging that the letters might be forwarded.

From the description that Mr. Gammon had given, the landlord concluded that Darking was the robber: yet, as he carried pistols, he did not choose to secure him; but no sooner was he departed than the landlord enclosed the letters in a cover, and sent them to London by the post, directed to Mr. Gammon.

These letters giving a knowledge of Darking's lodgings, Mr. Gammon applied to Sir John Fielding; in consequence of which proper measures were taken for the apprehension of Darking, who was found in bed, some days afterwards, with a woman of the town. He made an attempt to escape out of the window, but was soon secured, and lodged in Newgate.

On the approach of the assizes he was removed to Oxford by a writ of habeas corpus; and, being tried before Baron Adams, was convicted on the clearest evidence. When he was brought to the bar to receive sentence of death he besought the clemency of the judge, petitioning to be transported for life: in answer to this petition his lordship addressed him as follows:

'Young man, you have been arraigned upon an indictment for a robbery on the king's highway, and have been found guilty after a fair and candid trial. From your youth, you might have expected to have lived many years; and, from your education, might have been a comfort to your friends and relations, as well as a service to your country; but your engaging in vicious and immoral courses hath at

last brought you to this untimely end.

‘A day of this sort you could not but have expected, and it hath now overtaken you. Happy would it have been for you that your former deliverance, in a situation such as this, had been a memento to you to have altered your conduct. I hope your present circumstances will have a better effect upon you, and induce you to repentance. Make proper use of the time you have to live, in endeavoring to make your peace with God, for you will soon be in another world: your application to me for mercy is quite in vain; it is not in my power to grant it; from the king alone it is to be expected, of which, however, I can give you but little, very little, hope.’

During the time this malefactor was in prison he frequently diverted himself with reading *The Beggars’ Opera*. He likewise drank freely;

nor did he seem to entertain a proper sense of the horrid situation to which his vices had reduced him.

On the day of execution his behaviour was remarkably intrepid; and, at the place of his death, he fitted the halter to his neck, and threw himself off with great appearance of determined resolution.

This criminal was hanged at Oxford on the 16th of April, 1761.

After the pathetic address delivered by the judge to this convict it will be the less necessary to make any particular remarks on his case. Those whose vices may have tempted them to the commission of crimes within the cognizance of the law, and who have not enough of virtue remaining to take proper warning, and reform after conviction and conditional pardon, deserve the fate they meet; and ought to die unpitied, as they have lived enemies to the repose of their fellow-creatures!

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### THOMAS ANDREWS, CONVICTED OF AN UNNATURAL CRIME.

THIS miserable wretch, who had formerly lived in good credit, kept a public house at Pye Corner, near Smithfield, known by the sign of the Fortune of War, where he had as much business as enabled him to support his family in some degree of credit.

John Finnimore, a servant out of place, who had been acquainted with Andrews when he (Finnimore) lived with Mrs. Mead, in Red Lion Court, behind Saint Sepulchre’s church, called on Andrews, to inquire if he could help him to a service. Andrews’s wife being now out of town, he told Finnimore that he was welcome to sleep at his house; but the other declined it for that night, as Mrs. Mead had given him permission to lodge at hers.

On the following day Finnimore

went to Andrews’s with an acquaintance; and, after they had drank together, Finnimore hinted that Mrs. Mead had not offered him a lodging for the second night; on which Andrews told him that, as his wife was still out of town, he was welcome to a share of his bed. Hereupon Finnimore went away with his acquaintance, and returned about nine o’clock in the evening.

There were at that time a considerable number of people in the house; and when they were gone, which was not till near one o’clock in the morning, Andrews locked the doors, and he and Finnimore went to bed together.

What passed, or was presumed to pass, till daylight, it is impossible to relate with any kind of regard to the laws of decency.



In the morning Andrews opened the door, and Finnimore, going out without exchanging a word with him, went to his acquaintance, whom he found at the George, in Leather Lane, looking after some horses, which he drove, being coachman to a gentleman who put up his cattle at that place.

The coachman asked Finnimore to carry a letter to Clapham; but he said he could not go, and assigned such reasons as accounted for his incapacity.

Hereupon the coachman advised Finnimore to have Andrews taken into custody; and on the following day a warrant was procured for this purpose; but, when the constable went to take Andrews into custody, he charged him likewise with Finnimore, on which the constable took charge of them both.

The constable conducted them to the Mansion-house; but the lord mayor being absent, they were conveyed to the houses of two aldermen, neither of whom happening to be at home, Finnimore was lodged for that night in Bridewell, and Andrews in the Compter.

On the following day they were carried before Sir Robert Ladbrooke, the sitting alderman at Guildhall, when Finnimore made such a charge against Andrews that he was committed to Newgate.

At the ensuing sessions Andrews was brought to his trial at the Old

Bailey, when Finnimore gave such a clear account of the horrid transaction that the jury did not hesitate to find the prisoner guilty, and he received sentence of death.

Notwithstanding this conviction on evidence the most complete that the nature of such a case would allow, a conviction that left no doubt of Andrews's guilt in the mind of the public, yet such interest was made that he was indulged with a reprieve, and afterwards obtained a full pardon.

Andrews was discharged from Newgate in the month of July, 1761.

What sort of interest it was that procured a pardon for this man, it may be improper, because it could hardly be decent, to say. It is a subject that the delicate pen scarcely knows how to touch: but pardoned he was, to the astonishment of nine persons in ten who knew any thing of the case.

The writer of this narrative was well acquainted with two of the gentlemen that were of the jury that convicted Andrews; and he has been repeatedly assured by them that the strength of the evidence against him was such that no kind of doubt could remain of his guilt. Let the rest be buried, as it ought to be, in obscurity; and we believe our readers will thank us that this obnoxious story is one of the shortest in our collection.

### ROBERT GREENSTREET,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS MASTER.

This man served his apprenticeship with a Mr. Souch, a fish-hook maker, in Crooked Lane, London, by whom he had been so kindly treated, that after the expiration of his time he continued to work with him as a journeyman.

Greenstreet seems to have been of a discontented mind, for he was

often urging an increase of wages more than that humble trade would allow.

One day, having again introduced the subject to his old and kind master, now bending under the weight of many years, it led to a dispute, in which the young villain felled the poor old man to the

ground, and there inhumanly repeated his blows. While thus prostrate, the master faintly exclaimed, 'Bob, you are a rogue to use me thus!' upon which the villain took a knife from his pocket, and, deliberately opening it, stabbed him in several parts of his body, at every thrust calling out 'Damn your old soul!'

This bloody work was carried on before the youth who had succeeded Greenstreet as apprentice, and who, in endeavoring to save his master, received a stab through his hand.

The murderer was secured, and

a surgeon sent for, who found the old man speechless, senseless, and bleeding to death. In a few minutes he expired.

On his trial at the Old Bailey Greenstreet pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death.

He was executed at Tyburn, December the 14th, 1761, along with Daniel Looney, for shooting Captain Shanks.

The body of Greenstreet was given to the surgeons for dissection, and, when brought into the hall for that purpose, the eyes opened, though the body was dead.



*Mrs. Daniels brought home intoxicated.*

### THOMAS DANIELS,

CONDEMNED FOR THE SUPPOSED MURDER OF HIS WIFE.

— 'O Death!

Where art thou?—Death! thou dread of guilt!

Thou wish of innocence! affliction's friend!

Tired Nature calls thee: come, in mercy,

And lay me pillow'd in eternal rest.'

VOL. II.

This is an extraordinary hard case, and we think that every reader must agree in opinion that the accused, so far from being guilty of murder, had long submitted to the very worst kind of usage with



which a woman can possibly treat a husband.

The whole proof adduced against him was circumstantial; and we hope no jury sitting upon the life of their fellow-creature will again convict a man on such evidence.

That they erred in their judgment, or, at all events, that the Privy Council of the realm differed from them in opinion, is evident, from the unfortunate man immediately receiving the king's pardon.

But, that every one may form a judgment on the case, we shall simply narrate the circumstances drawn from the different publications of the day, including his own confession.

Thomas Daniels was a journeyman carpenter, and about the year 1757, at which time he worked with his father, he became acquainted with Sarah Carridine, a very pretty girl, who was servant at a public house; this girl he was very desirous to marry, but his father and mother would not consent, because she had lived in an ale-house. After consulting with the girl, and the girl's mother, it was agreed they should live together without being married. The mother, therefore, took a lodging for them, to which Daniels removed. His father, however, soon found out what he had done, upon which a quarrel ensued, and he determined to work with his father no longer.

As he was going about seeking employment elsewhere, he met with some of his acquaintance, who had entered on board the *Britannia* privateer, and they persuaded him to enter also.

When he went home, and told Carridine what he had done, she fell into violent fits of crying, and was, with great difficulty, pacified, by his telling her that the cruise

was but for six months, that he hoped he should make his fortune, and that he would marry her when he came back, advising her, in the mean time, to go to service.

In this situation she was naturally exposed to great danger. It is probable that her grief was mixed with resentment; that she considered herself as slighted and deserted; and that she doubted whether he would return again, and, if he did, whether he, who could so soon forsake her, would make good his engagement; at the same time, having been already debauched, she was not restrained by the powerful motives from which women resist solicitations to the first fault, and she was under every possible temptation to form another connexion that was likely to be more certain and durable.

Under all these disadvantages she was seduced by one John Jones, a founder, a wretch who had been the intimate acquaintance of Daniels, and professed great friendship for him. This fellow promised to marry her if Daniels did not return; that, if he did, he would continue his kindness to her; and that, if he should die himself, he would leave her all his goods, and all his interest in the capital of a box-club, to which he belonged.

Not long after this connexion between Carridine and Jones, Daniels came home, having been absent about eight months. As soon as he came to London he went to Mr. Archer's, who kept the White Bear, at the corner of Barbican, in Aldersgate Street, whom he called his master, and sent for his father and mother, with whom he spent an agreeable evening. He then inquired of Mrs. Archer after Carridine; and she referred him to Jones. Jones took him over the water to an alehouse near



the Bridge-foot, where he saw her. At this time she lived with her mother, and Daniels took a lodging in the same house with Jones, who, pretending great friendship for them both, urged Daniels to marry, going every night with him to spend the evening with the girl, and offering to give her away. Daniels, without suspicion of so perfidious and base a conduct, fell into the snare, and fixed upon a day; but, as our laws have laid a tax upon marriage, which other states have encouraged by pecuniary or honorary advantages, Daniels could not be married, because he had not money enough to pay the fees. He would have borrowed a guinea of his master, but his master refused; upon which Jones urged him to raise it by pawning his watch: to this Daniels consented, the watch was pawned for him by Jones himself, and Daniels and Carridine were married.

Daniels, at first, lived in ready-furnished lodgings, till his wife's mother persuaded him to live with her in Catherine-wheel Alley, Whitechapel. While they lived here Daniels frequently found his wife abroad when he came home from work, and when she did come home she was generally in liquor. The mother excused both her absence and her condition by saying she had been to see some young women in Spitalfields, and that a very little matter got into her head. It was not long, however, before Daniels found that she kept company with Jones; and having once followed them to an alehouse, when the mother pretended she was gone to see the young women in Spitalfields, he went to them, and, after some words, sent his wife home. She was then drunk, and, when he went home to her, a violent quarrel ensued, during which the

wife and the mother both fell upon him; and the wife afterwards ran out of the house, and was absent all night.

Next day, however, Daniels was persuaded to make it up; and soon after put her into a little shop in the Minories, to sell pork and greens, and other articles. She promised to mind her business, and never go into Jones's company more.

On the next Lord Mayor's Day Daniels attended his master to the hall of his company, and, his master having given him a bottle of wine, he went into the kitchen, and got some bread and meat. He would not, however, touch either the wine or the victuals there, but brought both home, pleasing himself with the thought of enjoying them quietly with his wife. When he came home his wife was out, and soon after he found her and Jones together upon the stairs, Jones having taken the opportunity of Daniels's absence to supply his place, not suspecting that he would leave the good cheer of the hall, and come home so early.

This caused a great quarrel, and Daniels would suffer his wife to keep shop no longer; he also removed from her mother's, and, having got a few goods of his own, took a room in the Little Minories. Here they lived somewhat more quiet for a little while; but, the wife falling again into irregularities, Daniels entered a second time on board the *Britannia* privateer, as carpenter's mate, and, without acquainting any body with what he had done, went down to the ship at Greenhithe; but in a few days, to his great surprise, he was visited on board by his wife, in company with Jones: they staid on-board all night, and, she lamenting and behaving like a mad woman, he

was at length persuaded to return home with her.

Soon after he took a house, the corner of Hare Court, Aldersgate Street, and put his wife once more into a shop; but she soon returned to her old ways, kept company with Jones and several other people, and at length ran away and left him.

Notwithstanding this conduct he was persuaded to receive her again, though she acknowledged her criminal intimacy with Jones, upon her promise of amendment; yet she not only contracted other intimacies of an infamous kind, but, when Daniels came home to his meals, she would be abroad, with the key of their room in her pocket, so that he was obliged to eat at an ale-house.

Notwithstanding all this Daniels seems to have had a strong attachment to her, and to have done every thing in his power to please her, that she might make his home agreeable, and was solicitous to the last to unite his pleasure with hers, in which he was constantly disappointed. The following instance, among many others, is a remarkable representation of his conduct and her character.

One Sunday, with a view to entertain her, he took her down to Ilford, that they might spend the day agreeably together: they dined at the White Horse there, and after dinner she drank freely. When the reckoning came to be paid she flew into a rage with the landlord, and, upon Daniels endeavoring to moderate matters, she turned all her resentment upon him, and carried it to such a degree, that she declared she would not go home with him, but would go with the first person that asked her, or even with the next man that went by. This threat, extravagant as it was,

she made good; for a person, dressed like an officer, stopping in a chaise at the door, she asked him to let her ride home with him: he consented, and away they went.

Daniels, though he had offered his wife a place in the stage, now walked home by himself; and, having sat up for his wife till it was very late, he at length gave her over, and went to bed. About two in the morning he was roused by a violent knocking at his door, where he found his wife so drunk that she could not stand, attended by her mother; and he quietly let her in, with the mother, whose assistance was absolutely necessary to put her to bed.

The account of what happened immediately before the accident that put an end to her life, and of that accident itself, is added in his own words, the truth of which he has attested upon oath, before a magistrate, since his pardon:—

‘The night before this melancholy accident happened, I came home, to be sure, not entirely sober where, not finding my wife, I went directly to her mother’s, where I found her very drunk. It being night, her mother said it was not proper to take her home in that condition, and therefore advised me to lie there that night, while she and her girl would go and sleep at my lodging. We did so.

‘In the morning, after my wife’s mother came back, we all breakfasted together at her lodgings. After breakfast I went to Mr. Clarke, timber-merchant, in St. Mary Axe, to solicit for some India Company’s work; from whence I went to the Mansion House ale-house, and drank a pint of beer. I then intended to go to work at Mr. Perry’s, in Noble Street; but, it being near dinner-time, I stopped at the Bell, opposite his house, for

another pint of beer, where, meeting some acquaintance eating beef-steaks, I dined with them. As I was eating, in came my wife and her mother: she at first abused me for being at the alehouse, but they afterwards, with great seeming good humour, drank with me, and, as they wanted money, I gave my wife two shillings, and lent her mother a six-and-ninepenny piece, which I had just received in change for half a guinea, from the master of the public house. As the day was now far spent, and as I was pleased with the prospect of working for the East India Company, I thought it not worth while to begin a day's work so late: I therefore went to Smithfield, to see how the horse-market went; from thence I went to Warwick Lane, to see for a young man whom I had promised to get to work for the Company also. I took him to Mr. Clarke, in St. Mary Axe, and afterward went with him to two or three places more; the last place was the Nag's Head, in Houndsditch; and about half an hour after nine o'clock went home.

When I came there I went in at the back door, which is under the gateway, and which used to be only on a single latch, for the conveniency of my lodgers. I went up to my room-door: but, finding it fast, came down stairs again.

There was then some disturbance over the way, in Aldersgate Street, which I walked over to see the meaning of, imagining my wife might chance to be engaged in it. Not finding her in the crowd, I returned, and went up stairs again: while I was on the stairs I heard my wife cough, by which I knew she was at home. Finding my door still fast, I knocked and called again; still she would not answer: I then said "Sally, I know you are

at home, and I desire you will open the door; if you will not I will burst it open." Nobody yet answering, I set my shoulder against the door, and forced it open; upon this she jumped out of bed. I immediately began to undress me, by slipping off my coat and waistcoat, saying, at the same time, "Sally, what makes you use me so? you follow me wherever I go, to abuse me, and then lock me out of my lodging; I never served you so." On this she flew upon me, called me a scoundrel dog, said she supposed I had been with some of my whores, and, so saying, tore my shirt down from the bosom: on this I pushed her down; she then ran to the chimney-corner, and snatched up several things, which I successively wrested from her, and in the scuffle a table and a screen fell down. At length she struck me several blows with a hand-brush; and, while I was struggling to get it from her, she cried out several times "Indeed, indeed, I will do so no more." When I got the brush from her, which I did with some difficulty, I gave her a blow with it, and then concluded she would be easy. She sat down on the floor, by the cupboard door, tearing her shift from her back, which had been rent in the skirmish: I sat down on the opposite side of the bed, with my back towards her, preparing to go into it; and, seeing her fling the remnants of her shift about in so mad a manner, I said "Sally, you are a silly girl; why don't you be easy?" On that she suddenly rose up, and with something gave me a blow on the head, which struck me down: I fell on the bedstead, with my head against the folding doors of it. I imagined she was then afraid she had killed me, for I heard her cry, two or three times, "O save me, save me!" How she



went out of the window it is impossible for me to say, in the condition she left me in ; but, from her cries, I supposed her gone that way ; and in my consternation, when I arose, I ran down one pair of stairs, where, not knowing how to behave, I went up again, and sat me down on the bed from whence I rose. In this position Mr. Clarke, the constable, and the numbers who followed him, found me. He said " Daniels, you have stabbed your wife, and flung her out at the window." I replied " No, Mr. Clarke, I have not ; she threw herself out."

' Mr. Clarke took a candle, and examined all the room in search of blood, but found none ; and luckily it was for me that neither of our noses happened to bleed in the fray, though mine was subject to do so on any trifling occasion.

' He then went to the window, where he found a piece of a saucer, and asked me what it was. I told him I did not know, but recollected afterwards that it was what I fed my squirrel in ; though I knew not how it came broke ; it was whole that day.

' From thence I was taken to the Compter ; and the public are already acquainted with the proceedings on my trial, when I was condemned for the supposed fact, September the 21st, 1761.

' I am informed that the next morning they found a pair of small pliers, bloody, in the window, which were then considered as a proof of my guilt. These pliers were what I have mended my squirrel's chain with whenever he broke loose, which was sometimes the case. How they should be bloody, as God is my Saviour, I cannot answer ; but, as no wound was perceived on the body, they were not produced as evidence against me. However, when my wife was brought up from

the street, it is said she was blooded, and that the basin was put in the window where these pliers were found. It is therefore possible that, in such confusion, a drop or two might accidentally be spilled upon them, more especially when we consider the tumult of a morning's exhibition of a dead body, for penny gratuities, by the unprincipled mother of it.'

The following judicious remarks are added by the person who assisted Daniels in publishing his case, and they seem to confirm the man's declaration of his innocence beyond the possibility of doubt.

The window of Daniels's room has two casements folding against each other, with garden-pots before them. One of these casements only used to be opened, the other being in general kept shut. These casements were each about sixteen or seventeen inches wide, and the window was about a yard and a quarter high. When this accident happened one casement was open, the other shut, as usual ; consequently the opening *then* through the window was about sixteen or seventeen inches wide, and a yard and a quarter high. Through this space a man was to thrust a woman, nearly as strong as himself ! If such a thing had been attempted, the following consequences must be incontestably allowed to ensue :

I. The woman would resist the attempt.

II. When persons struggle to avoid imminent danger, and are driven to despair, they are capable of a surprising degree of exertion, beyond their ordinary abilities.

III. This woman would therefore have continued in so narrow a gap a very considerable while before she could have been forced through, and would all that time have uttered cries, entreaties, and

exclamations, too expressive of her situation to have been mistaken by the neighbours and spectators.

IV. Her resistance would have overturned the before-mentioned garden-pots, and would have shattered the glass of the casement that was shut, and even forced open, or broke, the casement itself, which obstructed her passage.

V. In breaking the glass of the window her skin must have been greatly scratched and torn, and her limbs, naked as she was, have been otherwise greatly maimed and bruised.

VI. The man who undertook to force her out must have borne some very conspicuous marks of his attempt.

The two first of these propositions will be universally granted.

The third is contradicted by all the evidence on the trial, who unanimously agree that the moment the woman was seen she came through the window, and was only then heard to use such expressions, which Daniels accounts for better than any one else.

In reply to the fourth—the pots were not discomposed nor the window broken, except one pane; and it does not appear that even that pane might not have been broken before.

In answer to the fifth—the body, by the evidence of the surgeon, did not appear to have received any other damage than the natural consequences of so great a fall.

As to the last—the man was not seen at the window at all; and, as to any wounds or bruises sustained by him, the constable, when asked whether he saw the blow on his head, which he affirmed to be given him by his wife, declared he did not. But he was not asked whether he looked for it; a question, it may be presumed, he would have answered in the negative.

In such a situation, it is to be concluded, the poor fellow was little heard, and less regarded, concerning whatever he might allege in his own behalf.

A man may be stunned by a blow that might not perhaps exhibit any remarkable appearance; and, had it been seen, his account of it would have weighed but little.

It is not even probable, had he knocked this woman on the head first, that he could have sent the body through the window so completely as, either by fright or design, she accomplished it herself. But that she came there living is past all doubt.

To conclude:—the evidence against this unfortunate man was only presumptive at most, and, upon clear scrutiny, is really productive of *nothing*; so that, as he was discharged by royal authority, so has he also a just claim to an acquittal in the minds of all judicious and candid people.

## THEODORE GARDELLE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THEODORE GARDELLE was a foreigner, a man of education and talents in his profession—the fine art of painting. That he was not a man of a bad disposition, or given to irregularities, appears from Mrs. King's receiving him back as an in-

mate after he had once quitted her lodgings.

He was born at Geneva, a city which is famed for giving birth to great men in both the arts and sciences. He chose the miniature style of painting, and, having ac-

quired its first rudiments, went to Paris, where he made great proficiency in the art. He then returned to his native place, and practised his profession for some years with credit and advantage; but, it appears, unhappy in his domestic concerns, he repaired to London, and took lodgings at Mrs. King's, in Leicester Fields, in the year 1760.

Some time afterwards, for the benefit of purer air, he removed to Knightsbridge; but, finding that place too far from his business, he returned to his former residence, where he was pursuing his business until the fatal cause arose which brought him to an ignominious death.

On Thursday, the 19th of February, 1761, in the morning, the maid got up about seven o'clock, and opened the front parlour windows. There is a front parlour and a back parlour; both have a door into the passage from the street door, and there is also a door that goes out of one into the other: the back parlour was Mrs. King's bed-chamber, and the door which entered it from the passage was secured on the inside by a drop bolt, and could not be opened on the outside when locked, though the drop bolt was not down, because on the outside there was no key-hole. The door into the front parlour was also secured on the inside by Mrs. King when she went to bed, and the door of the front parlour into the passage was left open: when the maid had entered the front parlour by this door, and opened the windows, she went to the passage door of the back parlour, where Mrs. King was in bed, and knocked, in order to get the key of the street door, which Mrs. King took at night into her room. Mrs. King drew up the bolt, and the maid went in: she took the key of

the street door, which she saw lie upon the table by a looking-glass; and her mistress then shut the passage door and dropped the bolt, and ordered the maid to open the door that communicated with the front parlour, which she did, and went out. She then kindled the fire in the front parlour, that it might be ready when her mistress arose, and about eight o'clock went up into Gardelle's room, where she found him in a red and green night-gown at work. He gave her two letters, a snuff-box, and a guinea, and desired her to deliver the letters, one of which was directed to one Mozier, in the Haymarket, and the other to a person who kept a snuff-shop at the next door, and to bring him from thence a penny-worth of snuff.

The girl took the messages, and went again to her mistress, telling her what Gardelle had desired her to do; to which her mistress replied, "Nanny, you can't go, for there is nobody to answer at the street door." The girl, being willing to oblige Gardelle, or being for some reason desirous to go out, answered 'that Mr. Gardelle would come down, and sit in the parlour till she came back.' She then went again to Gardelle, and told him what objection her mistress had made, and what she had said to remove it. Gardelle then said he would come down as she had proposed, and he did come down accordingly.

The girl immediately went on his errand, and left him in the parlour, shutting the street door after her, and taking the key to let herself in when she came back.

Immediately after the girl was gone out, Mrs. King, hearing the tread of somebody in the parlour, called out 'Who is there?' and at the same time opened her chamber door. Gardelle was at a table-



very near the door, having just then taken up a book that lay upon it, which happened to be a French grammar. He had some time before drawn Mrs. King's picture, which she wanted to have made very handsome, and had teased him so much about it, that the effect was just contrary. It happened unfortunately that the first thing she said to him, when she saw him walking about in the room, was something reproachful about this picture. Gardelle was provoked at the insult; and as he spoke English very imperfectly, he, for want of a less proper expression, told her, with some warmth, 'That she was an impertinent woman.' This threw her into a transport of rage, and she gave him a blow with her fist on the breast, so violent, that he says he could not have thought it could have been given by a woman. As soon as the blow was struck she drew a little back, and at the same instant, he said, he laid his hand on her shoulder, and pushed her from him, rather in contempt than anger, or with a design to hurt her; but, her foot happening to catch in the floor-cloth, she fell backwards, and her head came with great force against the corner of the bedstead: the blood immediately gushed from her mouth, not in a continued stream, but as if by different strokes of a pump: he instantly ran to her, and stooped to raise her, expressing his concern at the accident; but she pushed him away, and threatened, though in a feeble and interrupted voice, to punish him for what he had done. He was, he says, terrified exceedingly at the thought of being condemned for a criminal act upon her accusation, and again attempted to assist her by raising her up, as the blood still gushed from her mouth in great quantities; but she still exerted all her strength to keep

him off, and still cried out, mixing threats with her screams. He then seized an ivory comb, with a sharp taper point continued from the back, for adjusting the curls of her hair, which lay upon her toilet, and threatened her in his turn to prevent her crying out; but she still continuing to cry out, though with a voice still fainter and fainter, he struck her with this instrument, probably in the throat, upon which the blood flowed from her mouth in yet greater quantities, and her voice was quite stopped: he then drew the bed-clothes over her, to prevent her blood from spreading on the floor, and to hide her from his sight. He stood, he said, some time motionless by her, and then fell down by her side in a swoon. When he came to himself he perceived the maid was come in; he therefore went out of the room without examining the body to see if the unhappy wretch was quite dead, and his confusion was then so great that he staggered against the wainscot, and hit his head, so as to raise a bump over his eye. As no person was in the house but the murdered and the murderer while the fact was committed, nothing can be known about it but from Gardelle's own account: the circumstances related above contain the sense of what he stated both in his defence, and in the account which he drew up in French to leave behind him, taken together as far as they are consistent; for there are in both several inconsistencies and absurdities, which give reason to suspect they are not true.

All was quiet when the maid returned, which, she said, was in a quarter of an hour. She went first into the parlour, where Gardelle had promised to wait till she came back, and saw nobody. She had paid three shillings and nine pence out

of the guinea at the snuff-shop, where she delivered one of the letters; to the other she had no answer; and she laid the change and the snuff-box, with the snuff she had fetched in it, upon the table; then went up into Gardelle's room, and found nobody; and by turns she went into every room in the house, except her mistress's chamber, whither she never went but when she was called, and found nobody. She then boiled some water in the kitchen, made a bit of toast, and sat down to breakfast. In a short time she heard somebody walk overhead in the parlour, or passage, and go up stairs, but did not go to see who it was. When she had breakfasted she went and stirred up the fire in the parlour against her mistress got up, and perceived that the snuff and change had been taken from the table; she then went up stairs again to Gardelle's room, to clean and set it to rights, as she used to do, and it was now between ten and eleven o'clock. Soon after Gardelle came down from the garret into his bed-chamber, which somewhat surprised her, as he could have no business that she knew of in the garret. When she first saw him, which was about an hour afterwards, she said he looked confounded, and blushed exceedingly; and she perceived the bump over his eye, which had then a black patch upon it as big as a shilling: he had also changed his dress, and had written another letter, with which he sent her into Great Suffolk Street, and ordered her to wait for an answer: she went directly, and when she returned, which was in a quarter of an hour, she found him sitting in the parlour, and told him the gentleman would be there in the evening. He then told her that a gentleman had been in the room with her mistress, and

that she was gone out with him in a hackney-coach. It appears by this that Gardelle knew the maid was acquainted with her mistress's character. The maid, however, though she might have believed this story at another time, could not believe it now; she was not absent above a quarter of an hour; she had left her mistress in bed, and the time would not have permitted her receiving a gentleman there, her being dressed, a coach being procured, and her having gone out in it; besides, when she came back, she knew Gardelle was in her chamber. This gave her some suspicion that Gardelle and her mistress had been in bed together. She went, however, and looked at the door of the chamber, which opened into the parlour, and which she had opened by her mistress's order, and found it again locked. About one o'clock Mr. Wright's servant, Thomas Pelsey, came and told the maid at the door that the beds must be got ready, because his master intended to come thither in the evening. The maid still wondered that her mistress did not rise; and supposed that, knowing she came in from her errand while Gardelle was yet in her chamber, she was ashamed to see her. Gardelle, in the mean time, was often up and down stairs; and about three o'clock he sent her with a letter to one Broshet, at the Eagle and Pearl in Suffolk Street. As he knew that it would be extremely difficult to conceal the murder, if the maid continued in the house, he determined that he would, if possible, discharge her; but as the girl could not write, and as he was not sufficiently acquainted with our language to draw a proper receipt, he requested Mr. Broshet, in this letter, to write a receipt for him, and get the maid to sign it, directing her to deliver it to him

when he paid her: he did not, however, acquaint her with his design. When Mr. Broshet had read the letter he asked her if she knew that Mr. Gardelle was to discharge her: she said 'No.' 'Why,' says he, 'Mrs. King is gone out, and has given Mr. Gardelle orders to discharge you; for she is to bring a woman home with her.' At this the girl was surprised, and smiled, telling Broshet that she knew her mistress was at home. The girl was now confirmed in her first thought, that her mistress was ashamed to see her again; and thus she accounted for the manner of her dismissal. She returned between three and four to Gardelle, whom she found sitting in the parlour with a gentleman whose name she did not know: she continued in the house till between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and then Gardelle paid her six shillings for a fortnight and two days' wages, and gave her five or six shillings over; upon which she delivered him the receipt that Broshet had written, took her box, and went away. As she was going out Mr. Wright's servant came again to the door, and she told him that she was discharged, and going away; that her mistress had been all day in her bed-room, without either victuals or drink; and that if he stayed a little time after she was gone, he might see her come out: the man, however, could not stay, and Gardelle, about seven o'clock, was thus left alone in the house.

The first thing he did was to go into the chamber to the body, which, upon examination, he found quite dead; he therefore took off the blankets and sheets with which he had covered it, stripped off the shift, and laid the body quite naked upon the bed: before this, he said,

his linen was not stained; but it was much discolored by his removing the body. He then took the two blankets, the sheets, the coverlet, and one of the curtains, and put them into the water-tub in the back wash-house, to soak, they being all much stained with blood; her shift he carried up stairs, and, putting it into a bag, concealed it under his bed; his own shirt, now bloody, he pulled off, and locked it up in a drawer of his bureau.

When all this was done he went and sat down in the parlour, and soon after, it being about nine o'clock, Mr. Wright's servant came in without his master, who had changed his mind, and was gone to a gentleman's house in Castle Street. He went up into his room, the garret, and sat there till about eleven o'clock; then he came down, and, finding Gardelle still in the parlour, he asked if Mrs. King was come home, and who must sit up for her. Gardelle said she was not come home, but that he would sit up for her.

In the morning, Friday, when Pelsey came down stairs, he again asked if Mrs. King was come home, and Gardelle told him that she had been at home, but was gone again. He then asked how he came by the hurt on his eye; and he said he got it by cutting some wood to light the fire in the morning. Pelsey then went about his master's business, and at night was again let in by Gardelle, who, upon being asked, said he would sit up for Mrs. King that night also.

In the morning, Saturday, Pelsey inquired again after Mrs. King; and Gardelle, though he had professed to sit up for her but the night before, now told him she was gone to Bath or Bristol; yet,



strange as it may seem, no suspicions of murder appear yet to have been conceived.

On Saturday, Mozier, an acquaintance of Gardelle's, who had been also intimate with Mrs. King, and had spent the evening with her the Wednesday before the murder, came by appointment about two or three o'clock, having promised to go with her that evening to the Opera. He was let in by Gardelle, who told him that Mrs. King was gone to Bath or Bristol, as he had told Pelsey. This man, and another of Gardelle's acquaintance, observing him to be chagrined and dispirited, seem to have imagined that Mrs. King's absence was the cause of it, and that if they could get him another girl they should cure him: they were therefore kind enough to procure one for him on this occasion; and, having picked up a prostitute in the Haymarket, they brought her that very Saturday to Gardelle, at Mrs. King's. The worthy, whose name is not known, told her Mrs. King was gone into the country, and had discharged her servant. Gardelle made an apology for the confusion in which the house appeared, and Mozier, or Muzard, as he is sometimes called, asked her if she would take care of the house. She readily consented; and Gardelle acquiescing, they left her with him. He asked her what her business was: she said she worked plain work. He then told her he had some shirts to mend, and that he would satisfy her for her trouble.

All this while the body continued as he had left it on Thursday night; nor had he once been into the room since that time. But this night, the woman and Pelsey being in bed, he first conceived a design of concealing or destroying the dead body by

parts, and went down to put it into execution; but the woman, whose name was Sarah Walker, getting out of bed, and following him, he returned up stairs, and went to bed with her. In the morning (Sunday) he arose between seven and eight, and left Walker in bed, saying it was too soon for her to rise. She fell asleep, and slept till ten: it is probable that in the mean time he was employed on the body, for when she came down, between ten and eleven, he was but beginning to light the parlour fire. He had spoken to her the night before to get him a char-woman, and he was in so much confusion that he did not ask her to stay to breakfast; she went out therefore, and hired one Pritchard as a char-woman, at one shilling a day, victuals and drink. In the afternoon she brought Pritchard to the house, and found with Gardelle two or three men and two women. Gardelle went up with her and stayed by her while she made his bed: then the company all went out together. The char-woman kept house, and about ten o'clock they returned, and supped in Gardelle's room. She was then dismissed for the night, and ordered to come the next morning at eight. The next morning, Monday, the char-woman was ordered to tell Pelsey, the footman, that Walker was a relation of Mrs. King's, who was come to be in the house till Mrs. King returned: but Pelsey knew that she and Gardelle had but one bed; for, when he came down on Monday morning, Gardelle's chamber door stood open, and, looking in, he saw some of her clothes. On Monday night Pelsey again inquired after Mrs. King, and Gardelle told him she was at Bath or Bristol, he knew not where; he always differed in

his account of her, but no suspicion of murder was yet entertained. On Tuesday morning, Pelsey, who was going up to his master's room, smelt something offensive, and asked Gardelle, who was shoving up the sash of the window on the staircase, what it was. Gardelle replied, somebody had put a bone in the fire: the truth, however, was, that, while Walker was employed in mending and making some linen in the parlour, he had been burning some of Mrs. King's bones in the garret. At night Pelsey renewed his inquiries after Mrs. King, and Gardelle answered, with a seeming impatience, 'Me know not of Mrs. King; she give me a great deal of trouble, but me shall hear of her on Wednesday or Thursday:' yet he still talked of sitting up for her; and all this while nobody seems to have suspected a murder.

On Tuesday night he told Mrs. Walker he would sit up till Mrs. King came home, though he had before told her she was out of town, and desired her to go to bed, to which she consented. As soon as she was in bed he renewed his horrid employment of cutting the body to pieces, and disposing of it in different places: the bowels he threw down the necessary; and the flesh of the body and limbs, cut to pieces, he scattered about in the cock-loft, where he supposed they would dry and perish without putrefaction. About two o'clock in the morning, however, he was interrupted; for Walker having waked, and not finding him, she went down, and found him standing upon the stairs: he then, at her solicitation, went up with her to bed.

Wednesday passed like the preceding days; and on Thursday he told his female companion that he

expected Mrs. King home in the evening, and therefore desired that she would provide herself a lodging, giving her, at the same time, two of Mrs. King's shifts; and, being thus dismissed, she went away.

Pritchard, the char-woman, still continued in her office. The water having failed in the cistern on the Tuesday, she had recourse to that in the water-tub in the back kitchen. Upon pulling out the spigot a little water run out; but, as there appeared to be more in, she got upon a ledge, and, putting her hand in, she felt something soft: she then fetched a poker, and, pressing down the contents of the tub, she got water in a pail. This circumstance she told Pelsey, and they agreed the first opportunity to see what the things in the water-tub were; yet so languid was their curiosity, and so careless were they of the event, that it was Thursday before this tub was examined. They found in it the blankets, sheets, and coverlet, that Gardelle had put in to soak: after spreading, shaking, and looking at them, they put them again into the tub; and the next morning, when Pelsey came down, he saw the curtain hanging on the banisters of the kitchen stairs: upon looking down, he saw Gardelle just come out at the wash-house door, where the tub stood. When Pritchard, the char-woman, came, he asked her if she had been taking the curtain out of the tub; and she said 'No.' She then went and looked in the tub, and found the sheets had been wrung out. Upon this the first step was taken towards inquiring after the unhappy woman, who had now lain dead more than a week in the house. Pelsey found out the maid whom Gardelle had dismissed, and asked her if she had put any bed-clothes into the water: she said

'No,' and seemed frightened. Pelsey was then also alarmed, and told his master.

These particulars also came to the knowledge of Mr. Barron, an apothecary in the neighborhood, who went the same day to Mrs. King's house, and inquired of Gardelle where she was. He trembled, and told him, with great confusion, that she was gone to Bath. The next day, therefore, Saturday, he carried the maid before Mr. Fielding, the justice, to make her deposition, and obtained a warrant to take Gardelle into custody. When the warrant was obtained, Mr. Barron, with the constable, and some others, went to the house, where they found Gardelle, and charged him with the murder: he denied it, but soon after dropped down in a swoon. When he recovered they demanded the key of Mrs. King's chamber; but he said she had got it with her in the country: the constable, therefore, got in at the window, and opened the door that communicated with the parlour, and they all went in. They found upon the bed a pair of blankets, wet, and a pair of sheets that appeared not to have been lain in; and the curtain also which Pelsey and the char-woman had seen first in the water-tub, and then on the banisters, was found put up in its place, wet. Upon taking off the clothes the bed appeared bloody; the blankets also were bloody, and marks of blood appeared in other places: having taken his keys, they went up into his room, where they found the bloody shift and shirt.

The prisoner, with all these tokens of his guilt, was then carried before Justice Fielding, and, though he stiffly denied the fact, was committed. On the Monday a carpenter and bricklayer were sent to search the house for the body, and

Mr. Barron went with them. In the necessary they found what he called the contents of the bowels of a human body, but what were certainly the bowels themselves; and in the cock-loft they found the parts of generation, one of the breasts, some other muscular parts, and some bones. They perceived also that there had been a fire in the garret, and some fragments of bones, half consumed, were found in the chimney, so large as to be known to be human. On the Thursday before he had carried an oval chip-box to one Perronneau, a painter in enamel, who had employed him in copying, and, pretending it contained colours of great value, desired him to keep it, saying he was uneasy to leave it at Mrs. King's while she was absent at Bath. Perronneau, when he heard Gardelle was taken up, opened the box, and found in it a gold watch and chain, a pair of bracelets, and a pair of ear-rings, which were known to be Mrs. King's. To this force of evidence Gardelle at length gave way, and confessed the fact, but signed no confession. He was sent to the New Prison, where he attempted to destroy himself by swallowing some opium, which he had kept several years by him as a remedy for the tooth-ache. He took at one dose forty grains, which was so far from answering his purpose that it did not procure him sleep; though he declared he had not slept once since the commission of the fact, nor did he sleep for more than a fortnight after this time. When he found the opium did not produce the effect he desired, he swallowed halfpence to the number of twelve; but neither did these bring on any fatal symptom, whatever pain or disorders they might cause, which is remarkable, because verigrise, the solution of copper, is a very powerful



and active poison, and the contents of the stomach would act as a dissolvent upon them.

On the 2d of March he was brought to Newgate, and diligently watched, to prevent any further attempts upon his life. He showed strong marks of penitence and contrition, and behaved with great humility, openness, and courtesy, to those who visited him.

On Thursday, the 2d of April, he was tried at the Old Bailey; and, in his defence, he insisted only that he had no malice to the deceased, and that her death was the consequence of the fall. He was convicted, and sentenced to be executed on Saturday, the 4th. The account which he wrote in prison, and which is mentioned in this narrative, is dated the 28th of March, though he did not communicate it till after his trial. The night after his condemnation his behaviour was extravagant and outrageous; yet the next morning he was composed and quiet, and said he had slept three or four hours in the night. When he was asked why he did not make his escape, he answered that he feared some innocent person might then suffer in his stead. He declared he had no design to rob Mrs. King, but that he removed some of the things merely to give credit to the story of her journey to Bath: he declared, too, that he never had any sentiments of love or jealousy with respect to Mrs. King; though it is evident his friends, who prescribed for his lowness of spirits, supposed that he had.

He affirmed that he regarded the woman they brought him with horror, but that he did not dare to refuse her, lest it should produce new suspicions with respect to the cause of his uneasiness. It is, however, certain, that he felt the ill effects of her company in more ways than one to his last hour.

He was executed April the 4th, 1761, amidst the shouts and hisses of an indignant populace, in the Haymarket, near Panton Street, to which he was led by Mrs. King's house, where the cart made a stop, and at which he just gave a look. His body was hung in chains upon Hounslow Heath.

One reflection, upon reading this dreadful narrative, will probably arise in the mind of the attentive reader; the advantages of virtue with respect to our social connexions, and the interest that others take in what befalls us. It does not appear that, during all the time Mrs. King was missing, she was inquired after by one relation or friend; the murder was discovered by strangers, almost without solicitude or inquiry; the murderer was secured by strangers, and by strangers the prosecution against him was carried on.

But who is there, of honest reputation, however poor, that could be missing a day, without becoming the subject of many interesting inquiries, without exciting solicitude and fears that would have had no rest till the truth had been discovered, and the injury, if any, had been avenged?

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### JOHN BRETT,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

This offender was the son of a clergyman in the north of Ireland, and, having received an excellent education, obtained an ensign's

commission in the 49th regiment of foot, on the Irish establishment, when he was about twenty years of age.

His disposition inclining him to feats of arms, he distinguished himself so greatly at the siege of Ticonderago that he was advanced to be a lieutenant, and likewise made adjutant of a regiment.

The regiment, being ordered from America to Jamaica, was stationed there some years; and in this island Brett married a gentleman's daughter, and received a considerable fortune with her: and two children were the issue of this marriage.

The regiment remaining in a state of inactivity, Brett was at a loss how to dispose of his time, and thereupon took to a habit of gaming, which incurred the censure of his father-in-law, who blamed him for a conduct so inconsistent with the interest of his family. Recriminations becoming mutual, the family became uneasy, and Brett wished for an opportunity of returning to Europe.

This opportunity soon offered; but, to lead to the occasion, we must mention the following fact:—Deserters from the regiments in Great Britain, and sometimes persons who have been capitally convicted, are sent to serve in regiments in the West Indies; and the officers on duty there go in rotation to England to examine such persons before they are sent over. Now it happened that, at the period of which we are writing, the officer appointed to sail to the port of London wished rather to remain in Jamaica; and Brett making application to go in his stead, his request was complied with; and he sailed in a man of war, which landed him at Portsmouth.

Going immediately to London, he associated with a set of gamblers, who soon stripped him of his own money, and likewise of some cash with which he was intrusted

on behalf of the regiment to which he belonged. Thus distressed by his imprudence, he endeavored to borrow money to make up his loss; but, failing in all his applications, he determined on the commission of forgery; whereupon he wrote the following letter to Messrs. Frazier, Wharton, and Mullison, merchants in London:

‘Gentlemen,

‘This goes by a St. Eustatia vessel, by one Mr. Richard Horton, a purser of a man of war, whose bills upon you, to the amount of one thousand guineas sterling, I must request the favour of you to honour, and you may depend that I shall soon send you proper remittances on that account. I have no more to add at present, but to desire you will be kind enough to comply with this, as it will not only be of service to him, but to myself likewise; and in so doing you will very much oblige

‘Your humble servant,

‘WALTER PRINGLE.’

This letter was dated from the West Indies, but not written in Mr. Pringle's hand, a circumstance that gave some suspicion to the gentlemen to whom it was directed; who were surprised that the person in whose favour it was drawn did not deliver the letter himself, but sent it by the post. This occasioned suspicion of a forgery; and the gentlemen resolved not to accept any bills in consequence of the letter.

A few days afterwards they received a bill, of which the following is a copy:

‘March 18, 1761.

‘Gentlemen,

‘Twenty days after sight please to pay Mr. William Huggins, or order, fifty pounds; and charge the same to the account of Walter Pringle, Esq. of St. Christopher's,

merchant, as per advice you will find by a letter of credit in my favour by Walter Pringle.

'RICHARD HORTON.'

As it was known that no packet had arrived about that time from the West Indies, little doubt remained but that a forgery had been committed; wherefore the merchants determined to make the most cautious inquiry. On the Monday following a gentleman, named Huggins, called for the bill, on which Mr. Mullison asked him how he came by it. He acknowledged to have received it, in his shop, of a person who would call again.

Hereupon a peace-officer was employed to attend at Mr. Huggins's house; and two days afterwards Brett came, and, being carried before Sir John Fielding, he acknowledged the forgery not only of the bill, but of the letter of credit, on which he was committed to Newgate.

Brett, being brought to his trial, pleaded 'Not guilty;' but, when Mr. Mullison had sworn to the facts, he begged leave to retract his former plea, and, having remarked that he had been ill advised by his attorney, said, 'I will not give the Court any trouble to prove the name Richard Horton not to be his handwriting; I have nothing to say but to plead guilty;' and in consequence hereof he received sentence of death.

After conviction he behaved in the most contrite and penitent manner. His father made all possible intercession to obtain the royal mercy for his unfortunate son; and in the mean time he wrote to him, to advise him to make proper preparation for that ignominious death which he had but too much reason to expect. Great interest was made to save him, but in vain: the crime was of such a nature, that it would

have been a point of false lenity to pardon it in a commercial kingdom.

On the day of execution Brett was conveyed to Tyburn, with three other malefactors, one of whom was David Morgan, who had been convicted of robbing Mr. Dobbison on Finchley Common. When at the place of execution, a respite was brought for Morgan, just as the executioner was on the point of tying him up. This being received by the under-sheriff, he went into the cart, saying 'Which is Morgan?' to which he answered 'My name is Morgan:' on which the under-sheriff said Loose him; take him away.' Morgan, now turning to Brett, said 'My reprieve is come; fare you well!' and they took a most affectionate leave of each other, after which Brett earnestly continued his devotions to the last moment.

Morgan's reprieve arose from the following circumstance. He had stopped the above-mentioned Mr. Dobbison and Mr. Aukland in a chaise. Dobbison attempted to fire a blunderbuss at him; but it flashed in the pan. On this Dobbison begged his life; to which Morgan replied, 'God forbid I should take your life: you know what I want; I am in necessity.' Mr. Aukland said, 'All you can desire of a gentleman is to ask your pardon;' to which Morgan replied 'I do not desire even that.'

Brett was hanged at Tyburn on the 12th of June, 1761.

After the repeated remarks we have made on the nature, danger, and consequence of the crime of forgery, it will be the less necessary to extend our observations on this particular case of Brett. One observation, however, is too striking to be omitted. He was a military man. Military men universally consider themselves as gentlemen; so,



indeed, they ought to be, and as such they ought to behave; but the misfortune is, that the pay of officers, excepting those in the higher ranks, is not equal by the day to what a ticket-porter will get in

London. Officers, therefore, of all men, should learn the great lesson of frugality, if they would wish to live with credit in that rank to which their interest or merit may have advanced them.

### JOHN M'NAUGHTON, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MISS KNOX.

JOHN M'NAUGHTON, Esq. was the son of a merchant at Derry, whose father had been an alderman of Dublin. To an outward form, which was perfectly engaging, he added the genteeldest demeanour, so as to promise the very reverse of what was the real disposition of his soul, which was subject to every blast of passion; and, though there was a great degree of love and softness in his composition, yet, when ruffled and opposed, he was suddenly transformed, all his seeming rationality instantly disappeared, and he became desperate and dangerous.

Mr. M'Naughton was educated in Trinity College, Dublin. When of age he entered into a landed estate of six hundred pounds a year, in the county of Tyrone, which was left him by Dr. M'Naughton, his uncle.

The first vice he fell into was gaming, by which he very soon did great injury to his fortune; and though he continued (as most novices do who play with sharpers) in a constant run of ill luck, and was soon obliged to mortgage, yet his losses made no visible alteration in his temper. His pride kept him within due bounds there. All was placid with the polite M'Naughton, and he lost his money to the very last with that graceful composure that became the man who had a plentiful fortune to support it. But, strong as his passion this way might be, it was not strong enough to se-

cure him against the attacks of love; and, becoming attached to a young lady, he very speedily married her. The reader may well suppose that the unavoidable expenses of a wife and servants in Dublin (as he pursued his old course of gaming) must soon increase his difficulties, and introduce a new scene of troubles. It did so most fatally, as will appear by the following melancholy accident.

A sheriff's writ was taken out against Mr. M'Naughton for some large debt; and, as he suspected the danger, he kept himself as secure at home as possible, by which means the bailiffs could get no admittance. The creditor, or some other persons concerned, hearing this, had influence enough with the high-sheriff to prevail on him to go to Mr. M'Naughton's house, and take him prisoner.

As the sheriff went in a chair, and appeared like a gentleman, the servants admitted him, and showed him into a parlour, where their master was alone; the sheriff told him he was his prisoner. On this M'Naughton flew into a rage, and, calling out for pistols, he frightened his poor listening wife to such a degree, that premature labour followed, and she died in childbed.

The high-sheriff was greatly and universally blamed for this seemingly officious behaviour; but this dreadful consequence threw Mr. M'Naughton into such distraction, that he made several attempts upon

his life, and he was obliged to be attended and watched for some months after. At his return from the country, after eighteen months' absence, he appeared greatly altered, like a wretch worn out with grief, so very susceptible was that frail man of the excess of every passion. But this fatal accident, which was near costing him his life, was attended with one good consequence—it immediately cut off all expense; and that long retirement into the country was of some service to his troubled fortunes, and gave him an opportunity, at his return to Dublin, to appear in some degree of splendour.

Time, amusements, and the gaiety of a court, are the best physicians for every grief. There he renewed his old, and, no doubt, contracted new friendships, and kept most faithfully to his favorite vice, gaming, which he then pursued with great spirit.

Some years before this, when Mr. M'Naughton had both character and interest in the world, he was appointed collector for the county of Colerain; but the public money soon became a dangerous commodity in the hands of a gamester; and, when there began to be a large balance against him, he not only lost that profitable employment, but was obliged to get one of his wife's relations to be security for him, and it is said that gentleman remained some time after in trouble on his account. The loss of that employment was the first mark of public discredit that befell this unhappy man.

About the period of his reviving from his troubles Mr. M'Naughton made his addresses secretly to Miss Knox, daughter of Richard Knox, Esq. of Prohen, in the county of Derry, a gentleman possessed of an estate of about fifteen hundred

pounds per annum; and as, by the marriage settlement, five thousand pounds had been settled on the younger children, Miss Knox, having only one brother and no sister, was entitled to the whole of the five thousand pounds, even though she disobliged her parents by marriage. —We must add to this bait the beauty, sweetness of temper, and other accomplishments of the young lady, which were remarkable. She was then about fifteen.

Mr. M'Naughton, who was an intimate friend of her father's, and a constant visitor, soon obtained a promise from the young lady to marry him, if he could get her father's consent.

He was soon after encouraged to talk with Mr. Knox on that subject, who not only absolutely refused his consent, and gave his reasons for it, but showed his resentment by forbidding him his house.

Mr. M'Naughton then begged Mr. Knox would permit him to visit as formerly, as he said it would look strange to the world to be forbid visiting a family in which all the neighbours knew he had been so intimate, and solemnly promised, upon his honour, never more to think of, or mention, this affair; and added, that, as he had not spoken of it to the young lady, Mr. Knox never need do it, and so the affair would drop of itself.

Thus were the father's eyes and ears once mere sealed up by this artful man, who continued his addresses to the daughter, and told her Mr. Knox had promised him his consent; but desiring, however, that no farther mention might be made of the affair for a year or two, till some material business was decided, which he would acquaint him with.

Thus he deceived the young lady, who now more freely gave way to

his passion, and again promised she would marry him as soon as that consent was obtained. Thus he remained some time, constantly watching an opportunity to complete his design.

One day, being in company with Miss Knox and a young gentleman (a very boy) in a retired room in the house, he pressed her to marry him, protesting he never could be happy till he was sure of her; and with an air of sprightly raillery, pulling out a prayer-book, he began to read the marriage service, and insisted on the young lady's making the responses, which she did; but to every one she always added, 'provided her father consented.'

Some short time after this, Miss Knox going to a friend's house, on a week's visit, Mr. M'Naughton, being also an intimate there, soon followed her. Here he fixed his scene for action; here he claimed her, and, calling her his wife, insisted on consummation, which the young lady absolutely refused, and, leaving the house, went directly and informed her uncle of the whole affair. On this Mr. Knox wrote a letter to M'Naughton, telling him what a base dishonorable villain he was, and bid him avoid his sight for ever.

Upon the receipt of this letter M'Naughton advertised his marriage in the public newspapers, cautioning every other man not to marry his lawful wife.

This was answered by a very spirited and proper advertisement from the father, with an affidavit of the whole affair from the daughter annexed.

Mr. Knox then brought an action against him in the Prerogative Court, to set aside this pretended marriage, which was found only to be a contract, for the breach of

which the party can only be sued at common law, and condemned to pay costs and damages; besides, it is probable that the young lady's being under age rendered this contract void in itself.

At this time Mr. M'Naughton had absconded from his debts, and therefore could not appeal to the Court of Delegates, where the former decree was confirmed. In consequence of this decree Judge Scott issued his warrant to apprehend him.

When M'Naughton heard this he wrote a most impudent threatening letter to the judge, and, it is said, lay in wait to have him murdered, when he was last at the assizes there, but missed him, by the judge's taking another road. Upon this the judge applied to the lord chief justice, who issued out another writ against him, that drove him to England.

Mr. M'Naughton returned to Ireland in the summer of 1761, and, by constantly hovering round Mr. Knox's house, obliged the family to be upon their guard, and the young lady to live like a recluse.

However, about the middle of the summer she ventured to a place called Swaddling Bar, to drink the mineral waters there for her health: thither this unhappy man followed her, and was seen in a beggar's habit—sometimes in a sailor's: thus disguised he was detected, and then swore, in the presence of several, that he would murder the whole family if he did not get possession of his wife! And yet so infatuated were they as to suffer him to get away once more to England, where he was supposed to be by Mr. Knox at the time this fatal event happened.

He remained in London till the month of October; and several of his acquaintance here, with whom



he spent his evenings, have since observed, that he was never easy, when alone with them, but when Miss Knox was the subject of conversation; and he has often concluded by saying he feared that affair would end in blood.

During his residence in London, at this last visit, it is said he gamed, cheated, borrowed money from all his acquaintance, and imposed on many by forged letters and false tokens from their friends.

It sounds something severe to speak thus harshly of a gentleman, particularly one under misfortunes. But truth must be observed. A man of worth and honour, brought to distress by unforeseen accidents, may, and often does, maintain his integrity and good name under a series of misfortunes; whereas the man reduced to poverty and disgrace by gaming, or any other extravagant vice, too often descends to mean actions; and he who commits a mean action is in great danger of committing a base one.

About the first of November last this unhappy wanderer was seen sculking in Ireland, and two nights prior to the murder was known to sleep with three of his accomplices at the house of one Mr. ———, a hearth-money collector. The morning of the 10th, the day the fact was committed, they all came with a sack full of fire-arms to a little cabin on the road-side, where Mr. Knox was to pass with his coach and six. From this cabin M'Naughton detached one of them to go to an old woman that lived at some distance on the road-side, under pretence of buying some yarn of her, but really to wait the coming up of Mr. Knox's coach, and inquire whose it was. When it ap-

peared in sight he asked that question, and was answered that it was Mr. Knox, who, with his family, was going to Dublin. He then made her point, to show him how they sat, which she did—Mr. Knox, his wife, his daughter, and maid-servant. As soon as he had got this information he ran off to inform M'Naughton that the coach was coming, and to make ready; that he had looked into the coach, and that Mr. Knox was only attended by one servant, and a faithful fellow, a smith, who lived near him, and was foster-father\* to Miss Knox, one whom M'Naughton could never bribe; for most of the other servants had suffered themselves to be tampered with, and, when discovered, had been discharged. As soon as the coach came near the cabin, two of the accomplices, armed with guns, presented them at the postilion and coachman, who stopped the coach, while M'Naughton fired at the smith with a blunderbuss. Upon this the faithful smith, who luckily escaped the shot, presented his piece, which unfortunately missed fire, and gave M'Naughton and one of his comrades an opportunity to fire at the poor fellow, and both wounded him. Immediately upon this two shots were fired at the coach, one by M'Naughton himself, and another by one of his assistants; and, finding that the passengers drew up the windows, he ran round, and fired into the coach obliquely with a gun loaded with five balls, all which took place in the body of the unhappy Miss Knox. The maid now let down the window, and screamed out that her mistress was murdered. On hearing this, the only livery servant that attended the coach, properly armed, came from

\* A character not much known or regarded in England, but in Ireland of no small notice. That man's wife was wet nurse, and suckled Miss Knox, from whence those poor people generally contract a faithful affection.

behind a turf-stack, where he had hid himself, and, firing at M'Naughton, wounded him in the back; and about the same time Mr. Knox from the coach fired one pistol, which was the last of eight shots fired on this strange and dreadful occasion.

Miss Knox was carried into the cabin, where she expired in about three hours. The murderer and his accomplices fled, but the country was soon raised in pursuit of them, and amongst others some of Sir James Caldwell's light horse, who were directed to search the house and offices of one Wenslow, a farmer, not far distant from the horrid scene of action. But, though some of the family knew he was concealed there, they pretended ignorance; so that M'Naughton might have escaped, had not the corporal, after they had searched every place, as they imagined, without success, and were going away, bethought himself of the following stratagem:—Seeing a labourer digging potatoes in a piece of ground behind the stables, he said to his comrades, in the fellow's hearing, 'It is a great pity we cannot find this murderer; it would be a good thing for the discoverer—he would certainly get three hundred pounds.' Upon which the fellow pointed to a hay-loft. The corporal immediately ran up the ladder, and forced open the door; upon which M'Naughton fired at him, and missed him. By the flash of the pistol the corporal was directed where to fire his piece, which happily wounding him, he ran in, and, seizing him, dragged him out, when they instantly tied him on a car, and conducted him to Lifford gaol. Here he remained in the closest confinement, entirely deserted by all his friends and acquaintance, as appeared on the day of his trial,

which commended the 8th of December, 1761, when he was arraigned, with an accomplice called Dunlap, before Baron Mountney, Mr. Justice Scott, and Counsellor Smith, who went down upon a special commission to try them.

M'Naughton was brought into court on a bier, rolled in a blanket, with a greasy woollen night-cap, the shirt in which he was taken, being all bloody and dirty, and a long beard, which made a dreadful appearance! In that horrid condition he made a long speech, pointedly and sensibly; and complained in the most pathetic manner of the hard usage he had met with since his confinement. He said 'they had treated him like a man under sentence, and not like a man that was to be tried.' He declared he never intended to kill his dear wife (at saying which he wept)—that he only designed to take her away. That he would make such things appear upon his trial as should surprise them all. But, alas! when his trial came on, all this great expectation which he had raised in the mind of every one came to nothing.

The trial lasted five days. The first day, the 8th, was spent in pleadings to put off the trial, and the reply of the counsel for the crown.

During these debates M'Naughton often spoke with most amazing spirit and judgment, and much more like an eminent lawyer than any of his counsel; and the result of that day was, that he should prepare his affidavit, which the Court would take into consideration. Accordingly, on the 9th, he was brought into Court again, and his affidavit read, in which he swore that some material witnesses for him were not to be had, particularly one Owens, who, he said, was present all the

time; but the judges, after long debates, were of opinion that nothing sufficient was offered to put off the trial: however, to show their indulgence, they would give him that day, and part of the next, to see if he could strengthen his affidavit by that of others. But when the new affidavit was produced, on the 10th, it was unanimously and peremptorily resolved by the Court that he had not shown sufficient cause to postpone his trial, and accordingly they gave him notice to prepare for it on the 11th, at eight o'clock in the morning.

The judges came on the bench at nine o'clock, and sat there till eleven at night, without stirring out of Court. During the whole time of the trial M'Naughton took his notes as regularly as any of the lawyers, and cross-examined all the witnesses with the greatest accuracy. He was observed to behave with uncommon resolution.

His chief defence was founded on a letter he produced, as written to him by Miss Knox, in which she desired him to intercept her on the road to Dublin, and take her away; but this letter was proved a forgery of his own, which after condemnation he confessed.

He took great pains to exculpate himself from the least design to murder any one, much less his dear wife (as he always called her); he declared solemnly that his intent was only to take her out of the coach, and carry her off; but as he received the first wound, from the first shot that was fired, the anguish of that wound, and the prospect of his ill success in his design, so distracted him, that, being wholly involved in confusion and despair, he fired he knew not at what or whom, and had the misfortune to kill the only person in the world that was dear to him; that he gave the Court

that trouble, and labored thus, not to save his own life (for death was now his choice), but to clear his character from such horrid guilt as designedly to murder his better half, for whom alone he wished to live.

These were his solemn declarations; but the direct contrary was proved in Court by several witnesses, whom he cross-examined with great spirit, and seemed to insinuate were brought there to destroy him; and, as the jury could only form their opinion on the testimony of the witnesses before them, who were examined on their oaths with the utmost care and solemnity, they brought him in 'Guilty.'

He heard their verdict without the least concern, telling them 'They had acquitted themselves with justice to their country;' and, when Mr. Baron Mountney pronounced the sentence upon him and his accomplice, Dunlap, who was found guilty with him, though he did it in so pathetic a manner as very visibly affected every one, M'Naughton appeared with the same indifference as at the beginning of the trial, and only begged the Court would have compassion on poor Dunlap. He said 'he was his tenant; that he possessed a very profitable lease, which was near expiring; that he had promised him a renewal if he would assist him in recovering his wife; and that he had forced his consent to accompany him in that action. He therefore begged of the Court to represent Dunlap as a proper object of mercy. For his own life, he said, it was not worth asking for; and, were he to choose, death should be his choice, since Miss Knox, his better half, was dead.'

Agreeably to their sentence,



M'Naughton, with his accomplice Dunlap, were executed on Tuesday, the 15th of December, 1761, near Strabane, in the county of Tyrone. He walked to the place of execution, but, being weak of his wounds, was supported between two men.

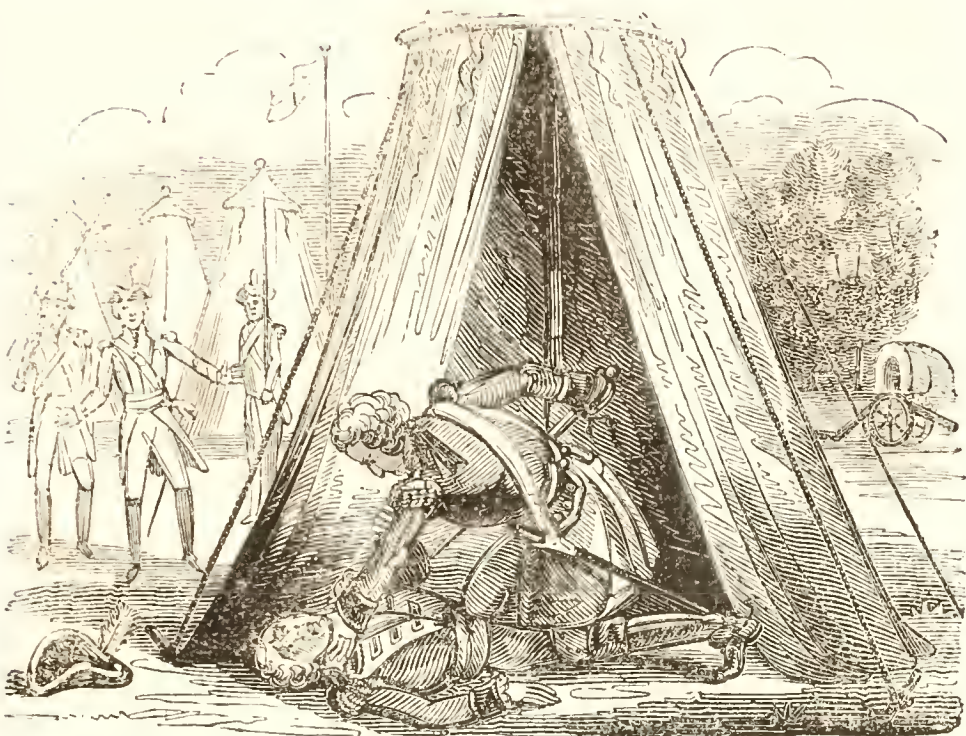
He was dressed in a white flannel waistcoat trimmed with black buttons and holes, a diaper night-cap tied with a black riband, white stockings, mourning buckles, and a crape tied on his arm. He desired the executioner to be speedy; and the fellow pointing to the ladder, he mounted with great spirit. The moment he was tied up he jumped from it with such vehemence as snapped the rope, and he fell to the ground, but without dislocating his neck, or doing himself much injury. When they had raised him on his legs again he soon recovered his senses; and the executioner borrowing the rope from Dunlap, and fixing it round M'Naughton's neck, he went up the ladder a second time, and, tying the rope himself to the gallows, he jumped from it again with the same force, and appeared dead in a minute.

Thus died the once universally admired M'Naughton, in the 38th year of his age, deserted by all who knew him, in poverty and ignominy!

M'Naughton not liking, he said, either the principles or doctrine of the clergyman who first went to prepare him for death, because, it seems, he made things too terrible to him, Mr. Burgoyne succeeded. As no carpenter could be found to make the gallows, the sheriff looked out for a tree proper for the purpose, and the execution must have been performed on it, had not the uncle of the young lady, and some other gentleman, made the gallows,

and put it up. The sheriff was even obliged to take a party of soldiers, and force a smith to take off his bolts; otherwise he must have been obliged, contrary to law, to execute him with his bolts on. The spectators, who saw him drop when the rope broke, looked upon it as some contrivance for his escape, which they favored all they could by running away from the place, and leaving it open. The populace would not probably have been so well disposed towards him had they known of his horrid designs of murder; but they had been persuaded that he only meant to get possession of his wife.

The foregoing account must naturally suggest some reflections on the high absurdity of those fathers, who, having handsome marriageable daughters, contract friendships with agreeable young gentlemen, and invite them to be intimates, without intending they should be husbands to, or wishing them to succeed with, their daughters. Are not the eyes by such means directed to their natural pleasing objects? and is not love most likely to be the certain and natural consequence? When they meet alone in the garden or the grove, will not love be their subject? How much more ridiculous and absurd must such fathers appear, who, when the discovery is made, are surprised and exasperated at what they themselves have brought about! It may be affirmed that this very mistake has been the cause of more real mischiefs than any other that can be named. It were to be wished, therefore, that all those who have been guilty of so great an error would not only sincerely repent of, but publicly own it, as such a confession might prove a warning to others.



*Captain M'Kaarg killed by Major Campbell.*

### MAJOR COLIN CAMPBELL,

CASHIERED FOR THE MURDER OF CAPTAIN M'KAARG.

COLIN CAMPBELL was major-commandant of the hundredth regiment of foot when that corps was quartered in the island of Jersey, from whence it embarked for Martinique. Among the officers in this regiment was Captain M'Kaarg, who had so far embezzled the money he received to pay his company, that the men were starving in the streets of St. Hillary, in Jersey, and was himself so greatly involved in debt, that he took methods to elude the payment of what he owed so unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, that the secretary at war acquainted Major Campbell, by letter, that, if he did not find means to satisfy his creditors, he should be obliged to lay his case before his majesty.

Upon receipt of this letter the major, with the advice of the com-

mander-in-chief at Jersey, who had before sent to inform him that M'Kaarg's men were begging in the streets, took the payment of his company out of his hands.

This necessary step of his commander M'Kaarg, in his mind, resented, but he apparently lived with him upon amicable terms; and, when the troops were embarking at Jersey, his necessities became so pressing, that he could not proceed on his voyage without pecuniary assistance, which in vain he endeavored to obtain from the paymaster and several other officers. He then applied to Major Campbell; and through him alone he was enabled to head his company on board the transports, without which he must have staid behind.

Generous actions we every day



see ill requited in civil society. Do a good turn, and, unless you follow it up by acceding to extravagant demands, you will too often be treated with ingratitude. Resentment follows, and the donor is often impelled to violence upon the ingrate.

M'Kaarg aspersed the character of his benefactor; and the major resorted to unjustifiable resentment. He, however, first sent the following letter to the man whom he was assured had treated him with dishonor and ingratitude:—

'Sir,

'I am this moment informed that on some occasions you have taken liberties with my character unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. I desire an immediate and explicit answer, per bearer; and am, till then,

'Your humble servant,

'C. CAMPBELL.'

To this letter he received the following answer:—

'Sir,

'I have just now received yours, and have taken no liberties with your character but what I am able to answer for.

'Your's, &c.

'J. M'KAARG.'

The moment the major received this answer he went, with a bayonet by his side, and a drawn sword in his hand, to Captain M'Kaarg's tent; and his rashness was the cause of his disgrace. Hence let officers learn to moderate their passions, and to seek lawful reparation for injuries.

At the court-martial held on Major Campbell it was proved that, thus armed, he assailed the tent of Captain M'Kaarg, which he entered, and said to him, 'You have aspersed my character—turn out.' The captain replied that 'he had no small sword.' Then the major

ordered him to turn out as he was: a struggling then ensued, and they came out of the tent. Again they struggled, and both fell to the ground; in which M'Kaarg was run through the body. When both were down Major Campbell said, 'Beg your life, or you are a dead man;' to which the captain replied 'I do beg my life:' and then he exclaimed 'I am a dead man!'—The major then got up, and ordered a surgeon to be sent for; but the wound proved mortal, and the captain soon expired.

This was the substance of the charge against Major Campbell. In his defence he attempted to prove that Captain M'Kaarg was armed, which the Court gave no credit to, pronouncing the following curious sentence:—

'The Court, on due consideration of the whole matter before them, are of opinion that Major Colin Campbell is *guilty of the crime laid to his charge*; but there not being a majority of voices sufficient to punish with *death* as required by the articles of war, the Court doth adjudge the said major-commandant Colin Campbell to be cashiered for the same; and it is the further opinion of the Court he is incapable of serving his majesty in any military employment whatever.

We have called this a curious sentence, because, if there was not a majority of the Court sufficient to punish with death, how could there be a majority sufficient to find him guilty of a crime by which he became liable to suffer death? The law requires, in capital cases, that three-fourths of the members of a court-martial must agree in opinion to find the party guilty. This Court declares that it did find him guilty, but could not punish him equal to his offence. If



three-fourths had found him guilty, they would surely have been sufficient to punish adequately to the guilt found; but, as three-fourths did not find him capitally guilty, the Court could not be competent to inflict any kind of punishment. On the contrary, upon the very face of their opinion and sentence, however guilty, in fact, he might have been, he was entitled to an acquittal in point of law.

Major Campbell taking offence at the conduct, during this trial, of General Monkton, under whom the island of Martinique had been captured, brought the following charge against that gallant general, before a court-martial at the Horse Guards, on the 14th of April, 1764:—

‘For many wrongs and deliberate acts of oppression towards the said Colin Campbell, when under his command, in the island of Martinique, in the year 1762, particularly by several acts of affront and indignity, both in the person of the said Colin Campbell, and the corps then under his command; and also, whilst a trial was pending on a charge exhibited against the said Colin Campbell before a general court-martial, by discouraging his friends, intimidating his witnesses, and depriving him of the lawful means of defence, as well as by suppressing the proceedings of the said general court-martial from the Earl of Albemarle, lieutenant-general of his majesty’s forces, under a pretence of the said proceedings

having been transmitted to Great Britain, when, in truth, they were still in his own custody; and, furthermore, by a cruel confinement of the said Colin Campbell, who was then ill, in a noisome unhealthy prison, even though it was at that time known to the said Major-general Monkton that the sentence against the said Colin Campbell was not capital.’

The opinion of the Court on the trial of this victorious general was pronounced by the president in these words: ‘The Court is of opinion that the charge and complaint of Colin Campbell, Esq. against Major-general Robert Monkton is altogether unsupported by evidence, and, in some points, extremely contradicted by the complainant’s own witnesses, and doth hereby most honorably acquit the said Major-general Robert Monkton of the same, and every part thereof; and the Court is further of opinion that the said charge and complaint is groundless, malicious, and scandalous, in the highest degree; and tending not only to injure the said major-general’s character, but to hurt the service in general, as it must greatly affect every officer, who may have the honour of commanding a body of his majesty’s troops, when he reflects that his character and reputation are liable to be thus publicly attacked by a person who has been dismissed his majesty’s service with ignominy.’

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### JOHN PERROTT,

EXECUTED FOR CONCEALING PART OF HIS EFFECTS FROM HIS CREDITORS.

JOHN PERROTT was born at Newport Pagnal, in Buckinghamshire, about sixty miles north of London, in the year 1723, being about thirty-eight years of age at

his death. His father died when he was seven years old, and his mother about two years afterwards, leaving him a fortune of about fifteen hundred pounds. After the

death of his parents, he was, by the direction of a guardian, placed in the foundation school of Gilsborough, in Northamptonshire, where he continued five years: he was then, being about fifteen years old, apprenticed to his half-brother, at Hempstead, in Hertfordshire, where he served out his time. In the year 1747 he came up to London, and began to trade for himself in foreign white lace, but kept no shop. In the beginning of the year 1749 he took a house, and opened a warehouse in Blow-bladder Street. About the year 1752 he removed from Blow-bladder Street to Ludgate Hill, where he opened a linen-draper's shop, and dealt in various other articles, styling himself merchant. From the time of his opening this shop, till the year 1759, he returned annually about two thousand pounds, and was remarkably punctual in his payments. Having thus established his reputation, and finding that no credit which he should ask would be refused him, he formed a scheme of abusing this confidence, which he began to put in execution by contracting for goods of different sorts, to the value of thirty thousand pounds, the greatest part of which, amounting to the value of twenty-five thousand pounds, he actually got into his possession. In pursuance of his project, it was necessary to convert these goods into ready money as soon as possible: he therefore employed one Henry Thompson (who had for three or four years acted as his agent, or broker) to sell them for ready money. Thompson at this time kept a little house in Monkwell Street, near Wood Street, whither the goods were sent in the dusk of the evening, and whither he invited some of the principal traders to look at them, as goods consigned to him

from the places where they were manufactured. Perrott always set a price upon them, which Thompson showed to his chapmen, who usually fixed another price at which they would buy: at this price Thompson was always ordered to sell, though it was frequently fifteen and twenty per cent. below prime cost.

When he had thus converted the goods he obtained upon credit into money, and before the time when he was to pay for them arrived, he summoned his creditors together, who accordingly met on the 17th of January, 1760, at the Half-Moon Tavern, in Cheapside, where he acquainted them that he was unable to pay the whole of what he owed, referring himself entirely to their pleasure, and promising to acquiesce in all such measures as they should propose, to pursue their own benefit and security.

This conduct and these professions had so plausible an appearance that Perrott's creditors conceived a favorable opinion of him, notwithstanding the loss they were likely to suffer: it was, however, determined that a commission of bankruptcy should be sued out against him; and Perrott having agreed to cause himself to be denied the next day to a person whom his creditors were to send to demand money, as the common and most ready foundation of commissions of bankruptcy, such a commission was issued against him on the 19th of January, the second day after meeting, and Perrott, being found and declared a bankrupt, surrendered himself as such.

The 26th of the same month, the 4th of February, and the 4th of March, were appointed for his appearance before the commissioners, to make a full disclosure of his estate and effects.

On the 26th of January he did not appear; and though he appeared on the 4th of February, and was sworn, yet he declared that he was not prepared to make a full discovery of his effects, and requested to have the time limited for that purpose enlarged, which request was granted.

But two of Perrott's creditors having been at this meeting chosen assignees of his estate, they found, upon an inspection of his accounts and affairs, such a deficiency and confusion as gave them just reason to suspect his integrity; and it was now thought necessary to examine him as soon as possible. He was accordingly summoned before the commissioners on the 26th of February, and then, being hard pressed, he acknowledged that he had bought goods since the year 1758 to the amount of twenty thousand pounds, and sold them himself, or by Thompson, for ready money, at fifteen or twenty per cent. under prime cost; and that, about five years before, he hired a house in Hyde Street, near Bloomsbury Square, at thirty pounds per annum rent, and furnished it at the expense of about one hundred and thirty pounds; that it was for a lady, and that he lived in it for about a year and a half, and then quitted it, and sold the furniture; and he swore, also, that he had not since that time any other house or lodging, or paid for the lodging of any other person.

An examination which produced such proof of the bankrupt's misconduct greatly increased the suspicions of his creditors that more knavery was intended; and it appeared that, though he had kept regular books from 1752 to 1757, yet that, at the end of that time, they were in some confusion, and afterwards in total disorder. Neither

were any traces to be discovered of accounts between him and Thompson, notwithstanding the very large transactions between them, which was another reasonable cause to suspect fraudulent designs.

These transactions between Perrott and Thompson were thought a sufficient reason to summon Thompson before the commissioners; and on the 1st of March he appeared, and deposed that he had sold goods for Perrott, to a great value, at fifteen or twenty per cent. under prime cost, and that he was ordered by Perrott not to declare the goods were his.

It was also discovered, during this examination of Thompson, that, on the third day after the commission was issued, Perrott sent to him by his apprentice a paper parcel, sealed with three seals, desiring he would take care of it; that he accordingly locked it up in his bureau, and, seeing Perrott a day or two afterwards, was told by him that it contained papers relating to private transactions between him and one Holt, of Newport Pagnel, in which his creditors had no concern; and that on Wednesday, the 29th of February, the day after his first examination, Perrott redemanded this paper parcel, and again received it from Thompson, who never knew its contents.

In the mean time, Perrott knowing himself justly suspected, and apprehending that his creditors would now insist on his making a final discovery, on the 4th of March he applied to the lord-keeper by petition, without the intervention or assent of his creditors, for enlarging the time limited for such discovery; and, when the commissioners met on the 4th of March, he caused them to be served with the lord-keeper's order for enlarging it forty-six days.



In the mean time, farther information having been received of Perrott's particular connexions, it was thought proper to examine one Patrick Donelly, a peruke-maker, in Bell Yard, near Temple Bar, upon whose examination it appeared that Perrott, about a fortnight after the commission issued against him, sent to him two large boxes, and one hair trunk, which he said contained wearing apparel, and desired that they might be kept for him till he could procure lodgings for himself; and that in about a week these boxes were carried to the last house in a court in Queen Square, Holborn, which was kept by a woman whose name was Ferne.

In order to pursue the track thus gradually found Mrs. Ferne was examined the 28th of March by the commissioners, who met for that purpose; when she declared upon her oath that she had known the bankrupt about a year, and that he had never put into her possession any bank-notes, cash, or any other effects whatsoever, belonging to him, and that she did not know of any effects he had. Perrott himself, being also examined at the same time, admitted his acquaintance with Mrs. Ferne, but swore that he had deposited no part of his property with her, except some wearing apparel; and that the paper parcel, sealed with three seals, which he told Thompson contained accounts of private transactions between him and one Holt, of Newport Pagnel, contained nothing but letters from the fair sex, which he had since destroyed.

His creditors, however, still continued to treat him with great lenity, and Perrott, in order to facilitate his obtaining his certificate, formed a design of sacrificing one of them to the rest.

He was indebted to Mr. Edward

Whitton, of Northampton, in four thousand, one hundred pounds; and Mr. Whitton having expressed himself with some warmth of resentment upon hearing Perrott was become a bankrupt, at the very time when he pretended to derive great advantages from his business, in order to cajole Whitton to advance him more money, under the pretence of enlarging it, Perrott conceived a project, by which he could at once take off the weight of Mr. Whitton as a creditor, and, by lessening the loss of the rest, dispose them to treat him more favorably.

When Mr. Whitton, therefore, appeared to claim his debt of four thousand one hundred pounds, Perrott pretended that no more than fifteen or eighteen hundred pounds was legally due to him, the rest of his demand being accumulated by usury and extortion; for that Whitton, whose debt was money lent, not only charged ten per cent. interest for the original loan, but had also charged interest upon interest, at the same rate.

It is a sufficient refutation of this wicked calumny, in which the most flagitious injustice was complicated with the basest ingratitude, to say that the commissioners, after the most scrupulous and deliberate inquiry, allowed the whole of Mr. Whitton's debt, to the satisfaction of all the other creditors of Perrott, though in direct opposition to his own solemn and repeated declaration upon oath. It should not, however, be concealed, that to this very Mr. Whitton Perrott was principally indebted for his introduction into trade, for his support in the course of it, and for the credit he afterwards obtained; that he declared to several persons, that, whenever he wanted money, he could have it of Mr. Whitton, his *dearest* and most *valuable* friend,

at four per cent. ; that Perrott, to ingratiate himself farther with this gentleman, made a will about the year 1757, in which he gave away two thousand pounds, and made Mr. Whitton his excentor, though he was not then worth one shilling ; and styled him his *best* and *dearest* friend, in letters written so lately as 1758, to induce him to sell out stock at considerable loss, and put the money into his hands, upon pretence that his profit would enable him to pay lawful interest for it, and replace it whenever it should be required, at whatever price.

On the 19th of April, 1760, the forty-six days expired, which Perrott had, by petition, procured to be added to the time limited for the disclosure of his estate and effects, and his final examination.

On this day, therefore, he appeared before the commissioners, and exhibited, upon oath, an account of his effects, which, after giving him credit for all the money he had paid, and making him debtor for all the goods he had sold, from his first entering into trade to his bankruptcy, left a deficiency of no less than thirteen thousand, five hundred, and thirteen pounds. He was therefore required to declare upon oath what was become of that sum ; to which he replied, ' That he lost two thousand pounds on goods which he had sold in the last year ; one thousand pounds, and upwards, by mournings ; and that for nine or ten years, he was sorry to say, he had been extremely extravagant, and spent large sums of money.'

As Perrott, during this examination, had also sworn that he never gamed, and as the vast sum unaccounted for came into his hands only in the last year, it appeared scarcely possible that it should, in that one year, he dissipated by any

species of extravagance : if not dissipated, it was concealed, and Perrott, therefore, was the same night committed to Newgate, for ' not having given satisfactory answers on his examination.'

In Newgate he was constantly visited by Mrs. Ferne, who was always elegantly dressed, and came in a chariot or post-chaise, attended by a servant in livery or a maid-servant, or both.

They used frequently to dress a chop themselves, and Perrott condescended to clean his own knives ; yet his folly and improvidence were so great, that at this very time he indulged himself and madam with green peas, at five shillings a quart.

After he had continued in Newgate six weeks he gave notice to the commissioners that he would give a more satisfactory account of the deficiency in his estate ; and being therefore brought before them on the 5th of June, 1760, he gave in, upon oath, the following account :—

Fitting up my warehouse in Blowbladder Street, and furnishing the same . . .	£100
Rent and boy's wages during my stay there . . . . .	100
Travelling expenses during the same . . . . .	100
My own diet during that time	125
Clothes, hats, wigs, and other wearing necessities . . .	200
Fitting up my house on Ludgate Hill . . . . .	100
Furnishing the same . . . .	200
Housekeeping, during my stay there, with rent, taxes, and servants' wages	2,700
Clothes, hats, wigs, shoes, and other wearing apparel, during my stay there	720
Travelling expenses during my stay on Ludgate Hill	360

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Carry forward . . . 4,705

Brought forward . . .	£1,705
Horses, and keeping them, saddles, bridles, and farrier's bill, during my residence on Ludgate Hill and Blow-bladder Street . . .	570
Tavern expenses, coffee-house expenses, and places of diversion, during the above time . . . . .	920
Expenses attending the connexion I had with the fair sex . . . . .	5,550
Paid Mr. Thompson for selling goods by commission . . . . .	300
Forgave him a debt in consideration of his trouble and time, in getting bills accepted, &c. . . . .	30
Lost by goods and mourning . . . . .	3,000

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Total £15,075

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To this account he added the most solemn asseveration, upon oath, that he had not concealed any part of his estate and effects whatsoever.

With this account the commissioners being equally dissatisfied, they sent him back to Newgate, and, some time after, he petitioned the lord-keeper to be discharged; but his lordship, upon hearing the last deposition which Perrott thought fit to annex to his petition read, thought it so infamous, that he would not order any attendance upon it.

As the creditors had now no doubt of the concealment of great part of Perrott's estate, they advertised a reward of twenty per cent. for such part of it as should be discovered.

In consequence of this advertisement one Sarah Reed came before the commissioners, on the 20th of June, 1760, and deposed that she lived with Mrs. Ferne as a servant, in the house of one Mrs. Trowers, in Brunswick Row, Queen Square,

till the last October; that Perrott there became acquainted with Mrs. Ferne, and soon after took her to Derby, and at her return made her a present of ten guineas in a purse.

That the deponent, in February, 1760, went to pay a visit to Mrs. Ferne, and was backwards and forwards about a fortnight; that, during this time, Mrs. Ferne, being about to go out, returned in great haste to lock a bureau, saying there was five hundred pounds in it, which the deponent believes to be Perrott's property, because Mrs. Ferne had been frequently so distressed for money as to employ the deponent to pawn her wearing apparel to discharge her rent. That, about this time, one Catharine Bowen, then servant to Mrs. Ferne, told the deponent that Mrs. Ferne had given her a parcel of papers, and desired her to hide them, which she did, behind the pictures and glasses in Mrs. Ferne's apartments; that they were so given her to hide because Perrott's assignees were expected to search the rooms. She deposed, also, that, about a week before Perrott and Ferne were summoned to their examination, she went up with Catharine Bowen into the garret, where Bowen took up a cushion that lay in a great chair, and took out a packet of papers sealed with three seals, and tied with packthread which papers Bowen said she believed to be bank-notes, and replaced where she found them. That, after Perrott and Ferne were gone before the commissioners, she and Bowen went to look for the papers, and they were gone; and, upon going to Mrs. Ferne's dressing-room, found it locked, which it never used to be, and of which she took the greater notice, as she, Bowen, had received orders that, if any persons should come to search the apartments, they should be shown those



of Perrott only, and not those of Ferne.

However strange it may appear that a person intrusted with bank-notes to a great value should give them to a servant-maid to hide under cushions and behind pictures, and, without any apparent motive, not only risk the loss of such notes by the dishonesty of the servant, but trust her with a secret of equal importance, by telling her they were secreted from a search expected to be made by the injured creditors of a bankrupt, yet there was no reason to doubt but that this witness had seen a paper parcel, sealed with three seals, which appeared to have been secreted, or that this parcel was any other than that which Perrott had intrusted to the care of Thompson, and concerning which he had already given different and inconsistent accounts.

In order to trace this important parcel still farther, Catharine Bowen was also summoned, and examined; and though she denied that Mrs. Ferne ever gave her any papers to hide, or that she ever pretended she had so done; yet she admitted that, as she was brushing a chair in the garret, she found such a paper parcel, which she put there again; that she was then alone; and that, about a week afterwards, the same parcel was found out by Sarah Reed, but she knows not by what means; that they conversed together about it, and said to each other that they believed it contained something of value; that she and Reed went up to look for it some time afterwards, and it was gone; and, going to seek farther in Mrs. Ferne's dressing-room, they found the door locked, which was unusual.

These depositions of Reed and Bowen sufficiently coincide to leave no doubt of a concealment, nor of

the place where it was made; yet these circumstances were not sufficient to enable the assignees legally to avail themselves of the powers with which they had been invested, to apply for search-warrants, or prefer bills of indictment.

Nothing farther was therefore done in the course of the proceedings, except making an order for the dividend of five shillings in the pound, till the September following, when Perrott caused himself to be brought up by a habeas corpus before Lord Mansfield, in order to be discharged; but his lordship, after having examined the affair, declared that the commissioners had done wisely and honestly in committing the bankrupt to prison; and that there he should remain till he had answered the questions they propounded to him to their satisfaction.

Perrott, however, on the 17th day of December following, petitioned the lord-keeper a second time, alleging that he had finished and signed his final examination, as by law required, before such question had been propounded; and that, having sworn he had made no concealment, the commissioners had no right to confine him.

When the matter of this petition was heard before the lord-keeper, he directed that the validity of the warrant upon which Perrott was committed, which was a question of law, should be determined in the Court of King's Bench.

This point was accordingly argued in the Court of King's Bench, before which Perrott was once more brought up by habeas corpus, and the Court was unanimously of opinion that the warrant was legal, and therefore remanded him to prison.

On the 13th of March the lord-keeper dismissed the petition, and

declared himself to be of the same opinion with the Court of King's Bench.

Perrott hoped to prove that, by the laws in force concerning bankrupts, the commissioners were obliged to receive as true whatever the bankrupt should think proper to swear at his final examination, and that they have afterwards no power of commitment; but, finding himself disappointed, he submitted to another examination; and being brought before the commissioners on the 21st of March, and asked the same question, he gave an account of his becoming acquainted with one Sarah Powell, otherwise Taylor, about six years before, with whom he continued an intimate acquaintance till he became a bankrupt, but who died soon after, as he was informed about ten months ago, while he was a prisoner in Newgate; and he delivered in an account, upon oath, of his having remitted to this woman, from Christmas, 1758, to Christmas, 1759, (though she was, during that time, by his own account, dying of a consumption, and was, for that reason, in the country, sometimes at Weybridge, in Surrey, and sometimes at Bath,) no less a sum than five thousand pounds in cash and bank-notes, which he had received of Thompson for the goods that he employed him to sell; at the same time confessing that, before this time, she had never cost him more than one hundred pounds a year.

When he was asked whether this woman, whom he supplied with no less than five thousand pounds in one year, kept any carriage, he said he could not tell. When interrogated by what servants she was attended, he answered 'By a man and a maid, whose names he never knew;' and he also declared that, though he saw her after her

return from Bath, and perceived she was past hopes of recovery, he never asked her how she intended to dispose of her effects, nor did he desire any person to attend her as a physician or apothecary in her last illness, or even know by whom she was attended; that he visited her at her lodgings in streets, the names of which he had entirely forgotten; and that he directed many letters to her he does not know where: but he said that the paper parcel with three seals contained several of her letters, which he had since burnt; and that he did not disclose these particulars before, because it was her dying request that he should not.

As this account was in every respect incredible and absurd, the commissioners sent him back to Newgate, for the same reason as they first committed him.

Not, however, to suffer the incredibility even of this account to rest upon its own extravagance and inconsistency, an inquiry was made after this Sarah Powell; and it was discovered, by information of undoubted credit, that her true name was Rachel Sims; that she was the daughter of a tradesman at Devizes, in Wiltshire, and had been in keeping, and was deserted, when she first became acquainted with Perrott; that she took the name of Powell because Perrott's linen was marked with a P.; that he also went by the name of Powell, and passed for her husband at many houses and lodgings in town and country; that she contracted a habit of drinking, which was the cause of her death; that she had just reason to complain of Perrott's parsimony; and that, when she died, she did not leave money enough to bury her.

Perrott, however, scrupled not, upon the merit of the answer, false

and incredible as it was, to cause himself again to be brought by habeas corpus into the Court of King's Bench, to be discharged; nor did the Court make any scruple to order him back from whence he came.

But Perrott was not yet discouraged, and, hoping for better success in another court, he brought an action into the Common Pleas against the commissioners, for false imprisonment.

In the mean time a reward of forty per cent. was offered by advertisements, often repeated, for the discovery of any part of Perrott's estate, but without effect. It happened, however, that as Mr. Hewitt, one of Perrott's assignees, was walking one morning last June upon the terrace in Lincoln's Inn Gardens, he observed a woman leaning over the wall, who had something so disconsolate and forlorn in her appearance, that he could not resist his curiosity to speak to her. Upon inquiring what was the cause of her present apparent distress, she told him that she had been turned out of her service by one Mrs. Ferne, and that she knew not where to go. The name of Ferne immediately rendered his curiosity interested in a high degree, and he sent her to Mr. Cobb, who was clerk under Perrott's commission, to get her examined.

The examination of this woman, whose name was Mary Harris, was taken before Justice Fielding, on the 23d of June, 1761, and was to this effect:—That she had known Mrs. Ferne about four years; that, when she first knew her, she was just come from the service of Mrs. Herman, at the Tea-chest, in Watling Street, and lodged at one Jefferson's, a grocer, in Shire Lane, Temple Bar, where the deponent

also lodged, and was her bedfellow; that her parents were poor people, who had a little farm in Derbyshire, of about thirty pounds a year; and that Ferne herself was without money, and in great want of clothes and other necessaries: that in the month of February then last (1761) Ferne called upon the deponent at her lodgings, and invited her to come to see her; that she went to see her the next day, and agreed to live with her as a servant.

That accordingly she went into her service on the 5th of March, and continued in it till the 4th of June following; that during that time she had frequent discourses about one John Perrott, a bankrupt, and had often seen a number of bank-notes in her possession, to the amount of four thousand pounds. That she told her all her fortune was owing to a person whose picture she showed, which she afterwards knew to be that of Perrott; that she went daily with her mistress to Newgate, where she often heard him and her mistress discourse how they would live when he got his discharge.

Once, in particular, her mistress told Perrott that the house of Sir John Smith, Bart. in Queen Square, was to be sold; upon which Perrott said, 'My dear, have you a mind for it?' She replied 'Yes, I can get it for eight or nine hundred pounds.' And he answered, 'My life, if you have a mind for it, I should like it above all places in the world;' and in consequence of this conversation Ferne went and bid nine hundred and fifty pounds for the house, and took the half of a bank-note of one thousand pounds to pay for it, though she did not buy it; and told the deponent that the other half of the note was in the hands of Perrott, and that she frequently cut bank-



notes, and kept half, and gave Perrott half, who kept an account of them.

In consequence of this information, Ferne's apartments, which were very expensively furnished, in particular with a chamber-organ, were searched by virtue of Justice Fielding's warrant; and, at the same time, Perrott's rooms in Newgate, by virtue of a warrant from the commissioners.

In Ferne's possession were found the half of four bank-notes, amounting in all to one hundred and eighty-five pounds, and the corresponding halves were found at the bottom of Perrott's trunk, hid, or sewed up very carefully in a piece of rag, together with the signed moiety of another bank-note for one thousand pounds.

Upon this discovery Ferne was carried before the justice, and examined concerning the bank-notes, when she insisted they were her own property, and received from gentlemen, as a gratuity for favours; but these very notes were, by the indefatigable diligence of those concerned, traced back as the identical notes paid to Thompson for goods which he sold on Perrott's account.

After some subsequent examinations of Mrs. Ferne, and of one Martin Matthias, and one Pye Donkin, who acted as attorneys for Perrott (which examinations all tend to prove that Perrott had deposited notes to a great value in Ferne's hands, and to expose the shameless perjury of Ferne,) all proceedings were suspended till the trial in September, 1761, when it being proved that the notes found in the possession of Ferne and Perrott were the produce of Perrott's estate, he was convicted, and received sentence of death.

From the time of his having been

charged with a capital offence he was put into irons; yet he seemed healthy and cheerful, and expressed great confidence of being acquitted.

After his conviction he was removed from his chamber to a cell, where he contracted a cold and hoarseness, and became fretful, querulous, and impatient. He had, however, even then, formed a scheme of escaping from prison; and a party of sailors were hired to come and rescue him in the day-time, when brought down from the cells to the chapel, by securing the turnkey at the gate, forcing the keys from him, and then carrying off the prisoner. To facilitate the execution of this project, Perrott complained that the public prayers were not so frequent as they ought to be, and was very zealous to attend oftener at chapel; but, some intelligence having been given to Mr. Akerman that a rescue was intended, orders were sent down that he should be more closely confined, and not permitted to be out of his cell any longer than during divine service: the Ordinary also received a hint not to visit him more than once a day, and at uncertain hours.

He was often urged to make a full disclosure of his effects, great part of which were still concealed; but he obstinately refused it, saying he was to die, and that was atonement sufficient for the wrongs he had committed.

When he was told the dead warrant was come down he did not betray such agony of confusion and terror as is generally expressed on such an occasion, but said 'The will of God be done.' He performed such devotion and heard such instruction as are common to persons in his unhappy circumstances.

He was, in consequence of his

own request, visited the day before his death by his assignees, to whom, however, he refused to answer particular questions relating to his estate, giving as a reason, that he had received the sacrament. This reason for answering no questions seems to prove that he had secretly determined not to disclose his estate by answering truly; because, in this case, he avoided the crime of falsehood by being silent; though otherwise his answer would have coincided with every part of Christian duty; and his having received the sacrament would rather have been a reason for his answering them than not.

On the morning of his execution he confessed the justice of his sentence, and acknowledged the injury he had done to his benefactor, Mr. Whitton, and asked his forgiveness. He expressed great solicitude about what should become of his body, desiring that it might be buried in the church of the place where he was born. To this he added another request, which was much more rational: he desired that the time might be enlarged in the chapel, and shortened at the place of execution. He was in chapel therefore from eight to three quarters after nine; the next half-hour was employed in knocking off his irons; about ten minutes more were spent in taking leave of his fellow-convict, one Lee, who was condemned for forgery; and about a quarter after ten he appeared, pale and trembling, at the door of the press-yard, and was immediately put into the cart.

As he was executed in Smithfield his journey was not far; yet he often looked round with a kind of wild eagerness and despair, common to those in his situation, who consider every thing they look upon as an object which they shall never more behold.

When he stood up under the gallows he expressed yet greater horror and despair, but soon recovered some degree of fortitude; and, when the Ordinary first came into the cart to him, he found him looking about, inquiring after his hearse, which he was soon satisfied was at hand: he then sent a red checked handkerchief to Lee by a person present, saying he had promised it for a token; this, however, the wretch who received it never delivered. After this his mind seemed more composed; and some prayers being repeated, in which he seemed to join with great ardour, he was, about eleven o'clock, November the 11th, 1761, turned off.

He appears, by two letters, which are printed in the account of him, published under the inspection of his assignees, to have had an inelegant, an illiterate, and in every respect a contemptible low understanding; yet, as is very common with such characters, he had a kind of low cunning, which, like that of a lunatic, is always employed for an ill purpose; and which, not being sufficiently uniform in itself, and extensive with respect to its objects, is always untimely disappointed.

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### JOHN SMITH AND ROBERT MAYNE,

EXECUTED FOR A MUTINY ON BOARD THE KING GEORGE.

ON the trial of these men, along with five more of the crew, it appeared that disputes arose on board

the King George, a fine privateer, of thirty-two guns and two hundred men, commanded by Captain

Reed, and cruising against the enemies of the country, concerning some prize wine, which was stowed in the hold, some of the crew insisting on its being hoisted up to be used for the whole ship's company. This would have been attended, in their then situation, with both difficulty and danger, and was consequently opposed by Captain Reed and his officers.

Thus disappointed, a factious discontented set endeavored to corrupt the remainder, who soon gained over so formidable a party, that they determined to seize the ship, and turn pirates in the Indian seas. In order to this, off Cape Ortugal, the mutineers demanded the keys of the arm-chests, on the refusal of which they drove the captain and officers into the cabin.

They then placed a guard at the door, and brought a nine-pounder carriage-gun, loaded with round and grape shot, to fire among the officers; but were prevailed upon to desist by the entreaties of Mr. Gardener, the sailing master.

To him they offered the command of the ship, acquainting him with their intention of steering for the East Indies; but on his refusal they put him under a guard, and took the ship into their own care, until they had, for want of skill, nearly lost both the ship and themselves. They then released Mr. Gardener, and gave him the helm; when he steered into Camarinas, in

Spain, where most of the mutineers took to the boats, and made their escape.

Such as were apprehended were brought to trial; and though two more, viz. Thomas Baldwin and Laurence Tierman, were found guilty, yet Smith and Mayne only were executed, who were the ring-leaders of the mutiny. They suffered at Execution Dock, May the 10th, 1762.

They were both Irishmen, and Roman Catholics, and were attended by a priest of that religion.

A few years after this affair a mutiny broke out among the crew of the *Namur*, of ninety guns. Fifteen were found guilty, and ordered to be hanged. They were brought for execution on board the *Royal Ann*, with halters round their necks, and, while waiting for the fatal gun being fired, were told that his majesty had pardoned fourteen of them, but one of them must die; and they were ordered to cast lots.

How exquisite must have been the feelings of these miserable men at the awful moment of deciding on the fate of one! The fatal lot fell upon the second man that drew, Matthew M'Can, who was soon run up to the yard-arm, where the body hung nearly an hour.

The pardoned seamen were turned over to the *Grafton* and the *Sunderland*, under sailing orders for the East Indies.

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### JOHN PLACKETT,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

JOHN PLACKETT was the son of poor, but honest and industrious people, living at Islington, who placed him at a charity-school, whence he was apprenticed to Mr. Pullen, wheelwright, of St. John's Street.

He absconded from his master before four years of his apprenticeship were expired, and entered on board a man of war. His character as a sailor was unexceptionable; but, when the ship was paid off, he contracted an acquaintance with a



number of dissolute people; and, having soon spent his wages in scenes of riot and dissipation, he commenced footpad.

Having subsisted some time by the commission of robberies on the highway, he broke into a house near Hockley-in-the-Hole,\* and stole a quantity of kitchen furniture; for which offence he was tried at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.

Soon after the expiration of the term of his exile Plackett returned to England, and committed several robberies between Islington and London.

On the 10th of June Plackett was drinking with some sailors during the greatest part of the day, at a public house in Wapping; and about twelve at night he left them, with the intention of committing a robbery.

The same night, Mr. Fayne, a Norway merchant, was returning from the Danish Coffee-house, in Wellelose Square, where he had spent the evening with some friends, to his lodgings in Shadwell; when, losing his way, he inquired of a hackney-coachman the road to Shadwell: but, as he spoke very indifferent English, the man could not understand him, and he presently applied for the same purpose to another hackney-coachman; at which instant Plackett came up, and made signs for Mr. Fayne to follow him, saying he was going to Limehouse.

They walked together through many streets and obscure lanes and passages, till they came into the fields; when Mr. Fayne observed that they could not be in the right road; but the other pretended not to understand him. They proceeded to the fields near Islington, when Mr. Fayne became greatly

alarmed, and expressed much uneasiness, for which, indeed, he had sufficient cause, for his treacherous companion, going behind him, struck him a violent blow on the back of his head, which occasioned him to fall to the ground.

The unfortunate gentleman lay for some time in a state of total insensibility; but, upon recovering the use of his faculties, he found himself entirely naked, and perceived Plackett standing near him, with his clothes and his pocket-book in his hands. In a few minutes Plackett made off with his booty, which, exclusive of his clothes, did not amount to much more than a guinea and a half.

The loss of blood rendered Mr. Fayne so exceedingly weak that it was with great difficulty he rose and got to a dry ditch, where he had not been long before he perceived a light at the turnpike-house in the City Road, and, as well as his weak condition would permit, he crept to the spot. The gate-keeper readily admitted him, put him into his own bed, and attended him during the night with such assiduity and tenderness as proved him to be a man of great humanity.

Mr. Fayne was attended the next morning by Mr. Godman, a surgeon; and that gentleman being conversant both in the French and Latin languages, he received a particular account of the cruel treatment his patient had experienced on the preceding night.

Soon after the robbery and cruel treatment of Mr. Fayne information of the affair was given before Mr. Justice Welch, who advertised a reward for apprehending the offender; and in a few days he was taken at his lodgings in Gray's Inn Lane. The shirt that Mr. Fayne

\* Now called Back Hill, leading from Leather Lane, Holborn, to Clerkenwell.

wore when he was robbed was found in Plackett's room; and the person was traced to whom he had sold the clothes.

Plackett being taken before the magistrate for examination, the evidence against him was deemed sufficient to put him on his trial, and he was therefore committed to Clerkenwell Bridewell.

Plackett solicited to be admitted an evidence for the crown against a number of accomplices, but was denied; and he afterwards acknowledged that no person was concerned with him in the robbery of Mr. Fayne, and that it was not in his power to give information against any offender.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey Plackett was sentenced to be hanged, and his body to be hung in chains.

He regularly attended divine service in the chapel, and behaved with a decency becoming his unhappy situation, during the time that he remained in Newgate.

The place appointed for the execution of Plackett was near the City Road; and, when he arrived there, he pointed to the spot where he had robbed Mr. Fayne, saying his soul was struck with horror when he reflected upon his cruelty to that gentleman.

Observing his uncle among the crowd, he called to him, and, pulling a ring from his finger, offered it to him; but it was some time before he could prevail upon the uncle to accept it.

He behaved with great decency and contrition, praying with the minister near three quarters of an

hour. A little before he was turned off he called for silence, and, in an audible voice, made the following confession:—

‘The first robbery I committed was on a young woman on the long causeway, Islington, about sixteen years ago; the second was on a man in Jennings’s Field, in the same town; the next was stealing a copper from Mr. Beazley, in St. John’s Street, for which I was transported for seven years; but I staid in the plantations fourteen. After my return to England I stole a silver watch and a gown from my uncle’s house; and the last was the fatal robbery on the Danish young gentleman, for which I most deservedly suffer.

‘All the above robberies I committed by myself, and no person was ever concerned with me. This I solemnly declare, as I expect mercy from God, before whom I am now going to appear.’

He was turned off, July 28th, 1762, amidst an amazing concourse of people; and, while hanging, the rails on the footway of the City Road were forced down by the pressure of the crowd, and a great number of people fell into a triangular hollow, formed by the meeting of the City and Goswell Street Roads; by which accident many were very dangerously hurt.

After hanging the usual time the body was cut down, and conveyed to Finchley Common, where it was put into irons, and hung on a gibbet.

The spot where he suffered, for many years afterwards, was called Plackett’s Common.

## JOHN KELLO,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

JOHN and JOSEPH KELLO were the sons of a mercer in an extensive way of business, in Houndsditch, who placed John at a grammar-

school at Ludlow, in Shropshire, where he attained a great proficiency in classical learning.

His education being completed, he was articled to a reputable merchant; and, soon after the expiration of his clerkship, he procured three hundred pounds for the purpose of establishing himself in business, with which sum he embarked for Virginia; and, soon after his arrival there, he connected himself in partnership with a person who had been some time settled in that colony in an advantageous branch of trade.

Joseph Kello had served a Blackwell Hall factor some years in the capacity of a clerk, and in that time he contracted an intimate acquaintance with Mr. Cotton, a packer, of Aldermanbury, who was employed to do a great deal of business for a gentleman named Partridge; and, from frequenting Mr. Cotton's house, Joseph had frequent opportunities of seeing Mr. Partridge's writing, and became acquainted with many of that gentleman's commercial concerns.

After a residence of about three years in Virginia John Kello returned to London, and hired lodgings in the neighborhood of Bloomsbury Square; but, being addicted to a life of pleasure, he soon found himself in very embarrassed circumstances.

The situation of Joseph was not more eligible than that of his brother; for he was equally attached to scenes of dissipation; nor was he more inclined than John to industry in his profession or economy in his expenses.

With the view of relieving themselves from their embarrassments, they concerted a plan for obtaining a thousand pounds, by means of a forged draft, in the name of Mr. Partridge; and learning that, on the 28th of August, he was gone to

Harlow, they determined to seize the opportunity of his absence for carrying their villainous plan into execution.

Joseph having taken one of the checks under the firm of Amyand, Staples, and Mercer, from Mr. Cotton's compting-house, carried it to his brother, at the Red Lion alehouse, in Moorfields, and there filled it up in a hand very nearly resembling Mr. Partridge's writing. The counterfeit instrument was now enclosed in a letter to Mr. Cotton, purporting to be the writing of Mr. Partridge, desiring him to receive the thousand pounds expressed in the draft in one bank-note, and leave it under cover at the bar of Sam's Coffee-house, directed for Mr. Rous.

The letter enclosing the counterfeit draft was dispatched by a porter, who, upon delivering it, was asked by Mr. Cotton who was his employer; in reply to which he said he had received the letter from a gentleman in the street, and that no answer was required.

The hand of Mr. Partridge being imitated with great nicety, Mr. Cotton had no suspicion of an intended fraud, and immediately set out for the banker's house in Cornhill, where he presented the draft to Mr. Mercer, who, after checking him for coming after the usual hour of paying money, paid the thousand pounds in one bank-note.

Mr. Cotton immediately went to the coffee-house, and sealed the note in a cover, which he directed to Mr. Rous; but after waiting about three hours, in expectation of seeing the gentleman, he returned home, taking the note with him, and leaving word at the bar for Mr. Rous to call at his house in Aldermanbury.

When Mr. Cotton got home he found Joseph Kello there, and mentioned to him that, as the sum Mr.



Partridge had authorized him to receive was considerable, he judged it not prudent to leave the note at the coffee-house, lest some mistake or accident should happen.

Hereupon Joseph went to his brother, who was waiting at Seymour's Coffee-house, in Pope's-head Alley, whence they dispatched a chairman to Mr. Cotton, with a verbal message, as from Mr. Partridge, desiring him to leave the note for Mr. Rous at the coffee-house.

Joseph now returned to Mr. Cotton; and presently after him came the porter, and delivered his message. Mr. Cotton set out for the coffee-house, being desirous of giving the note into the possession of Mr. Rous; and, upon inquiring for a gentleman of that name, the landlady said he had been gone from the house only a few minutes, but had left word that he should return in a short time. John, who waited to receive the note under the name of Mr. Rous, went out of the house upon observing that the messenger did not return alone.

Mr. Cotton, recollecting that Mr. Partridge had connexions in trade with a gentleman named Rous, who lived at Hackney, concluded that he must be the Mr. Rous for whom the thousand pounds were intended; and, after waiting at the coffee-house till near midnight, he left a note at the bar, intimating that he would the next morning wait upon Mr. Rous, at Hackney, with the bank-note.

Upon going home he found Joseph Kello at his house, and gave him an account of his conduct. Joseph Kello intimated that he was apprehensive Mr. Partridge would be highly offended upon learning that the note was not delivered according to his order. Mr. Cotton, however, still adhered to his resolution of keeping the note till he

could dispose of it without hazard; and he directly went to the post-office with a letter to Mr. Partridge, assigning reasons for his conduct in the affair.

Joseph slept at Mr. Cotton's that night; and the next morning (which was Sunday) he informed his brother of Mr. Cotton's design of going to Mr. Rous, at Hackney. It was now agreed that another letter, as from Mr. Partridge, should be written to Mr. Cotton, purporting that he (Partridge) had received notice by express that Mr. Rous had not received the note, and desiring the directions contained in his former letter might be immediately obeyed.

This letter they artfully sent, under cover, to Mr. Partridge's house; and that gentleman's porter carried it to Mr. Cotton, who had set out for Hackney, but stopped for refreshment at the Sun alehouse, at London Wall, where the porter found him.

In consequence of the forged letter Mr. Cotton immediately went to Sam's Coffee-house, and there left the note in a cover, directed for Mr. Rous.

Joseph, learning that Mr. Cotton had acted agreeably to the pretended order of Mr. Partridge, communicated the circumstance to his brother, who went to the coffee-house, and received the note under the name of Mr. Rous.

On the day the note was obtained by John, Mr. Cotton and Joseph dined together; after which the brothers met by appointment, and went into the fields near Sadler's Wells, where the cover was opened, and the enclosed bank-note taken out. They then adjourned to John's lodgings, in Bloomsbury, where it was resolved that he should set out in a post-chaise for Bristol, in order to procure cash for the note; and Joseph borrowed ten

guineas for his expenses on the road.

Not being able to obtain the money at Bristol, he proceeded to Bridgewater, in Somersetshire, where the clerk to the receiver-general of the land-tax changed the note. He had no sooner received the cash than he travelled post to London, and took up his residence with a woman of the town in a street near Westminster Abbey. He gave the woman with whom he cohabited a bag, in which was the cash received in exchange for the bank-note, desiring her to take care of it, and saying it contained half-pence to the amount of five pounds.

Joseph Kello being taken into custody, charged on suspicion of the forgery, he made use of some expressions which seemed to convey an indirect accusation against his brother; and, after he had been particularly questioned respecting the affair, it was agreed to admit him an evidence for the crown, in case of John being apprehended.

The postilion who had driven John to town recollected the place where he had ordered his trunk to be conveyed; and that circumstance facilitated the discovery of his lodgings, where he was taken into custody by Sir John Fielding's men, who recovered more than nine hundred pounds of the money obtained by means of the counterfeit draft.

John Kello being brought to trial at the Old Bailey, his brother's evidence was exceedingly strong, and supported by a great number of corroborative circumstances; and he was therefore convicted of the crime alleged in the indictment.

When he had been a short time in the cells of Newgate he was visited by the Ordinary, to whose advice, however, he refused to attend, saying that the religious principles he had long entertained he would maintain till death.

Being summoned to attend prayers, he refused, saying he was a Dissenter. Hereupon Mr. Akerman sent him word that he might be attended by a minister of his own persuasion, but that his presence in the chapel was expected; and to the latter part of the message [Mr. Akerman is supposed to have been induced by an unwillingness to trust him in the cells alone, the servants belonging to the prison being engaged in attending the other prisoners during divine service.

He obstinately persisted in refusing to be attended by any dissenting minister; and, nearly to the end of his life, appeared to be totally indifferent as to the necessary preparations for eternity.

When the morning on which he was to be executed arrived the Ordinary put several questions to him respecting his sentiments of the doctrines of Christianity, in which he declared he entertained a firm belief, and that pride alone had suggested whatever reasons he had given for an opinion to the contrary.

At the place of execution he acknowledged his guilt with every appearance of unfeigned contrition; but his voice was so low, through a very decayed state of health, that he was to be heard only by those who were in or very near the cart. Being asked by the Ordinary whether he forgave his brother, his answer was, that he forgive him as far as he could, 'consistent with humanity.'

His devotions being concluded, he was turned off, October the 13th, 1762; and, after hanging the usual time, his body was delivered to his friends, by whom it was privately interred in a decent manner.

From the above narrative we may learn that, however nearly allied by blood and friendship, no obligations will be found sufficient



to prevent our best friends from becoming our accusers when they are impelled by the double motive of self-preservation and the desire of making some reparation for the crimes they have committed.

It would be a difficult point to determine which of the brothers had the greatest share of guilt. Perhaps the ignominious death of John was not a more severe punishment than what was sustained by Joseph ; for it is scarcely to be supposed that any favorable change of circumstances could restore him to happi-

ness after having proved so material an instrument in producing the destruction of a brother.

Wealth is desirable only as the means of procuring the conveniences and comforts of life : but let our readers remember that, when it is obtained by unjustifiable actions, the consciousness of guilt will perpetually obtrude upon the mind, wholly disappoint or take off the relish of every promised enjoyment, and leave us miserable slaves to the tyranny of continual alarms and dreadful apprehensions.



*Hannah Dagoë resisting her execution.*

## HANNAH DAGOE,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING A POOR WOMAN.

WE have adduced many instances of the hardness of heart, and contempt of the commandments of God, in *men* who have undergone the last sentence of the law ; but we are of opinion that in this *femle* will be found a more relentless heart, in

her last moments, than any criminal whom we have yet recorded.

Hannah Dagoë was born in Ireland, and was one of that numerous class of women who ply at Covent Garden Market, to the exclusion of poor Englishwomen.



She became acquainted with a poor and industrious woman of the name of Eleanor Hussey, who lived by herself in a small apartment, in which was some creditable household furniture, the remains of the worldly goods of her deceased husband. Seizing an opportunity, when the owner was from home, this daring woman broke into Hussey's room, and stripped it of every article which it contained.

For this burglary and robbery she was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to death.

She was a strong masculine woman, the terror of her fellow-prisoners, and actually stabbed one of the men who had given evidence against her; but the wound happened not to prove dangerous.

On the road to Tyburn she showed little concern at her miser-

able state, and paid no attention to the exhortations of the Romish priest who attended her.

When the cart in which she was bound was drawn under the gallows she got her hands and arms loose, seized the executioner, struggled with him, and gave him so violent a blow on the breast as nearly knocked him down. She dared him to hang her, and took off her hat, cloak, and other parts of her dress, and disposed of them among the crowd, in despite of him.\* After much resistance he got the rope about her neck, which she had no sooner found accomplished, than, pulling a handkerchief, bound round her head, over her face, she threw herself out of the cart, before the signal given, with such violence, that she broke her neck, and died instantly, on the 4th of May, 1763.

### DANIEL BLAKE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

BLAKE was the son of a butcher at Banwell, in Norfolk, who brought the youth up to his own business. When he was about twenty years old he became dissatisfied with his trade, and travelled to London, with an intention of hiring himself as a gentleman's servant; and he had been but a short time in the metropolis when he was engaged in the service of Lord Daere.

Blake, having contracted an acquaintance with some women of abandoned character, resolved to support the expenses attending such conduct by robbing his fellow-servants.

He had been in the service of Lord Daere about ten weeks, when he determined to carry his iniquitous plan into execution; and, going

into the room of Mr. Mureott, his lordship's butler, he repeatedly struck him with great violence on the head with a poker, and then, taking a knife from his pocket, cut his throat almost from ear to ear.

After the barbarous murder of Mr. Mureott, Blake took twenty guineas from the breeches-pocket of the deceased, and then returned to his bed. He arose about seven, and went to his usual business; and in about an hour he was desired to call Mr. Mureott; on which he said he had already called him two or three times, but had not been able to make him answer.

Lord Daere's bell ringing about nine, the porter went into the chamber of the deceased, and repeatedly called him; he then approached the

\* The clothes in which criminals die are claimed as the perquisite of the executioner, unless a full equivalent is given him by the friends of the deceased.

bed, and shook Mr. Murcott, and, finding him still silent and motionless, exclaimed 'God bless me! I believe he is dead!' He then turned down the bed-clothes, which the murderer had thrown over Mr. Murcott's face, and, perceiving them bloody, he quitted the room in great terror, and communicated his discovery to the housekeeper and Lady Daere's waiting-maid, who, going into the room, turned the clothes a little further down, and observed a knife, which they supposed to have fallen from the hand of the deceased; and, attempting to move the body, the head inclined backwards, and gave the wound a most shocking appearance.

Upon the rest of the servants being informed of Mr. Murcott's unhappy death Blake shed tears in great abundance, wrung his hands, and appeared to be affected in so extravagant a degree, that he was urged to moderate his affliction, lest the nobleman and his lady should be alarmed.

Mr. Murcott's death being communicated to Lord Daere, he sent for Marsden, clerk to Sir John Fielding, and kept him in the house three days, with the view of discovering the perpetrator of the horrid fact.

During the time that Blake had been in the service of Lord Daere he was known to be in very indigent circumstances; but, on the day after the murder, he was observed to discharge several small debts; and hence arose a suspicion of his guilt.

All the servants in the family being strictly examined in the presence of Lord Daere, the porter declared that he firmly believed that the knife found in the bed belonged to Blake, who, on being taken into custody, and conducted to Sir John

Fielding, voluntarily acknowledged himself guilty of the horrid fact, and was committed to Newgate, in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey he was put on his trial; and, his own confession being corroborated by very strong circumstantial evidence, he was found guilty, and sentenced to be executed.

While he was in Newgate he proved that he had but very imperfect ideas of his duty towards the Almighty, and confessed that he had not read a chapter in the Bible, or attended to any other religious book, since leaving school. While he was under sentence of death his behaviour was decent and penitential. The day before his execution he said his mind was perfectly calm, and that his ease increased as the time of his death approached; adding, that he had a full confidence of salvation through the merits of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Being brought into the press-yard, he said to those around him, while his irons were knocking off, 'You seem to look at me with earnestness. You were all born; but you know not in what manner you shall die. Let my fate warn you to keep the sabbath, and honour your parents.'

At the place of execution he addressed the populace to the following effect:—'Be careful to attend divine worship; profane not the sabbath; repent of your sins, and make a timely peace with God. Behold the consequence of my iniquities! Fear God, and honour your parents, for neglecting which I must suffer a disgraceful death.'

He was then turned off, February the 28th, 1763, and his body afterwards hung in chains on Hounslow Heath.

## PAUL LEWIS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

The history of this man displays a great variety of villainy, and presents another sad instance of a son's wickedness bringing his father's grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

Paul Lewis was born at Horsemonsens, in Sussex, and was the son of a worthy clergyman at that place, who put him to a grammar-school at a very early age; but such was his aversion to study, that he made not any reasonable degree of progress: on which his father took him home, with an intention to have instructed him himself; but, finding that he had no propensity to learning, he procured him, through Sir Cecil Bishop, a commission in the train of artillery.

Paul, though a dunce, had not less ambition, nor perhaps less qualification, to become a fine gentleman. In his spirited attempts to attain that character he ran in debt with his tailor to the amount of about one hundred and fifty pounds, which obliged him to run away and go to sea. There, it appears, he had for some time behaved so well that he was first made a cadet, then a midshipman, and finally a lieutenant in the royal navy.

He was at the taking of Senegal, the burning the ships in Cancale Bay, the reduction of Cherbourg, the battle of St. Cas, the siege of Guadaloupe, and the engagement under Sir Edward Hawke, in all which services he behaved with courage and activity.

He had vices, however, not common to bravery, and very different from the irregular sallies of a high-spirited and strong passion. Paul was not only wicked, but base; not only a robber, but a scoundrel; of which he gave proofs while on board the fleet, particularly by collecting three guineas apiece from

many of his brother officers, to lay in stores for a West-India voyage, and then ran away with the collection, and commenced highwayman.

Having thus began his iniquitous course of life, he went to a public house in Southwark, staid great part of the day, and supped; and then, going to an inn, hired a horse, and, riding out between Newington Butts and Vauxhall, stopped a gentleman and his son in a post-chaise, and, having robbed them, returned to the public house in Southwark.

Being apprehended for this offence, he was brought to trial at Kingston, when the people of the public house swearing that he had not been absent from noon till midnight more than half an hour, he was acquitted.

After this he committed a variety of robberies, and was twice in imminent danger of that fate which at length overtook him, of which we shall now relate the particulars.

Lewis and an accomplice having robbed a gentleman and lady in a post-chaise, near Paddington, the robbers rode some miles together, and then agreed to part, and commit their depredations separately.

Not long had they parted when Lewis stopped a gentleman named Brown, and demanded his money. Mr. Brown resisted the highwayman with such determined resolution, that Lewis fired at him, but happily without effect.

At this juncture Mr. Brown's horse took fright, and threw him; but, being little injured, he soon recovered, and saw Lewis in the custody of Mr. Pope, a constable, who had got him down, and was kneeling on his breast; a circumstance that arose from the following accident:—Mr. Pope being riding on the same road, a gentle-



man and lady told him they had been robbed by two highwaymen, and desired him to be cautious; but this induced him to ride on the faster, and he arrived at the spot in a short time after the robbery was committed, and seized Lewis.

Pope desired Mr. Brown to ride after the other highwayman who had been on the road; but at this instant Lewis arose, and, presenting a pistol, swore he would shoot Pope. The latter, however, was in no degree intimidated; but, knocking the pistol out of his hand, threw him down, and secured him in the manner above mentioned; after which he tied his hands behind his back, and, searching his pockets, found ten pistol bullets in them.

The highwayman was conveyed to New Prison, where having lain one night, he was taken before a magistrate, and committed to Newgate.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey he was brought to trial. The evidence against him was exceedingly strong. He attempted, indeed, to make a kind of defence; but it amounted to nothing, and, the jury finding him guilty, he received sentence of death.

Such were the baseness and unfeeling profligacy of this wretch, that, when his almost heart-broken father visited him for the last time in Newgate, and put twelve guineas into his hands to defray his expenses, he slipped one of the pieces of gold into the cuff of his sleeve by a dexterous sleight, and then, opening his hand, showed the venerable and reverend old man that there were but eleven; upon which he took from his pocket another, and gave it him, to make up the number he intended.

Having taken a last farewell of his parent, he turned round to his fellow-prisoners, and exultingly exclaimed, 'I have flung the old fellow out of another guinea!'

The Ordinary of Newgate represented the behaviour of Lewis in a very unfavorable light; hinting, among other things, that he had threatened his life, declaring that he should never again have an opportunity of attending a criminal under sentence of death. The unhappy Rice, who suffered with him, being one day in the chapel with a view to receive the sacrament, Lewis demanded an admittance to the same solemn service; but being refused, unless he gave some proof of penitence, he said to the Ordinary, 'Whether I am fit or not, what is that to you? Damn you! I will beat you before I have done with you, unless you give me it. I am as good a Christian as you, you scoundrel.'

In Newgate he was by the other prisoners allowed the title of Captain, and he assumed all the villainy of Macheath. He sat at the head of the table, sang obscene songs, and damned the parson (the Ordinary). He gave out that he would die like a man of honour, and that no hangman should put a halter round his neck, intimating that he would put an end to his own life.

This, however, he had not courage enough to commit; for, after having concealed, or pretended to conceal, a knife in his pillow many days and nights for that purpose, he suffered it to be found by dropping it, as though by chance, in the chapel.

He procured a letter to be written in his name (for he could not form one himself) to James Eyre, Esq. then recorder of London, where, in a lofty style, he claimed descent from Land, Archbishop of Canterbury, and relationship to many noble and ancient families; recapitulating his services in the navy, and imploring pardon of his majesty.

The warrant for execution arrived.

ing, Paul lost all his assumed courage, his vauntings sunk into trembling fears, and he became as abject as before he appeared hardened. Now crying aloud in repentant exclamations, he was admitted to the sacrament the morning of his execution.

Arrived at Tyburn, he looked round him with a face of inexpressible anguish, and then addressed himself to the multitude in the following terms:—

‘This dreadful sight will not, I believe, invite any of you to come here, by following my example; but rather to be warned by me. I

am but twenty-three years of age, a clergyman’s son, bred up among gentlemen: this wounds me the deeper; for to whom much is given, of them more is required.

‘My friends, I entreat you all to avoid such offences as may bring you here, on every account, especially for the sake of your families. Let the memory of my evil actions die with me, and do not reflect on my aged father. Hitherto I have been a disgrace to all that knew me: were I to begin my life again, I should live an honour to society.’

This malefactor suffered at Tyburn, May the 4th, 1763.



*Harrow, while poaching, discovered by the Gamekeeper.*

## WILLIAM HARROW, COMMONLY CALLED THE FLYING HIGHWAYMAN.

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

This malefactor may be said to have galloped to his fate over the beaten road. He commenced his

career in idleness, the parent vice; then he became dexterous at throwing at cocks, and in cock-fight-



ing.\* These cruel and infamous acquirements lead to robbery, adultery, and every other deadly sin. Such is the general course of highwaymen; and their goal—the gallows.

He had likewise a propensity to poaching: and the gamekeeper of a gentleman near Hatfield having detected him in a fact of this kind, Harrow threatened his destruction; the consequence of which was, that he was lodged in Hertford gaol; but, before the time of holding the quarter-sessions, he broke out, and made his escape; on which a reward of fifty pounds was offered for taking him into custody.

Made desperate by this circumstance, he took to robbing on the highway. The depredations he committed were very numerous; and he obtained the name of 'The Flying Highwayman' by his horse leaping the several turnpikes, so that he constantly escaped detection.

His career in villainy was, however, happily but short. He laid a scheme for committing a burglary and robbery, for which he and two of his associates forfeited their lives, in company with Thomas Jones, a noted travelling rat-catcher, William Bosford, and another desperate villain. They went to the house of an old farmer, named Thomas Glassecock, who had, by an extraordinary degree of parsimony, ac-

cumulated a very considerable sum, of which these abandoned men determined to rob him, under the pretence of being peace-officers, who were come to apprehend some deserters. The old gentleman refused them admittance; on which they forced their way through the window, and, binding Mr. Glassecock and his housekeeper, they searched the house, when, finding a tea-chest which contained three hundred pounds, they seized it, and departed.

Having divided the booty, they separated; and Harrow, taking a girl with him as a companion, travelled into Gloucestershire, and, putting up at an alehouse in a small village, and assuming the character of a sailor, who had brought home prize-money to a considerable amount, he continued for two months without any suspicion arising. At length a quarrel happening between him and some of the customers of the house, a scuffle ensued, and a pistol in one of Harrow's pockets going off, a suspicion arose that he was a highwayman, on which he was carried before a magistrate for examination.

Nothing like proof arising to eriminate him, he was dismissed; but, not thinking it prudent to remain any longer, he set out with his girl; but did not tell any one the road that he intended to travel.

Very near the time that he departed, one of the magistrates of

\* Kind treatment to animals, made for man's use, is a sign of a humane and excellent disposition; while cruelty and barbarity to them show a wicked and diabolical temper. Do not these creatures, when they are bruised and wounded, show an equal sense of pain with ourselves? Are not their shrieks and mournful cries as so many calls upon their tormentors for pity? And do not their dying pangs, and the painful convulsions of their tortured bodies, cause uneasiness in every humane spectator? To give ease and happiness to them, and to relieve their miseries, would give pleasure to ourselves, provided we are such men as we ought to be. But, if we take any delight in tormenting, or in seeing animals tormented, whom do we resemble but that evil being, who takes pleasure in the misery of man? And how easily may that youth be induced to delight in wounding and murdering his fellow-creatures, who has been trained up in his childhood to exercise cruelty upon poor innocent animals?



Gloucestershire received a letter from Sir John Fielding, requesting that he would order a search for one William Harrow, who stood charged with having committed a variety of robberies in the neighborhood of St. Albans.

Upon this the magistrates sent some persons in pursuit of him, who, having traced him to Worcester, made such inquiries as led them to think he had gone towards Wolverhampton. Taking this road, they found him in bed with his girl, and, having taken him into custody, he was conducted to prison at Gloucester.

By a writ of habeas corpus he was removed to Hertford, where he lay till the assizes, when he was indicted for robbing Mr. Glascock; and, being convicted on the clearest evidence, was sentenced to die.

A number of clergymen visited him after conviction, and labored to convince him of the necessity of making an immediate preparation for eternity. He was likewise visited by his mother, who burst into tears at the sight of her wretched son.

On the night before his execution he sawed off his irons, with an intent to have made his escape; but

he had not quite time enough to effect his purpose. When the gaoler came in the morning, he said he would have saved the hangman his trouble, if he had not come so soon; and threw at him the irons, which he had by this time got from his legs.

Before he was put in the cart, a sermon was preached on the occasion of his fatal exit.

Immense numbers of people attended at the place of execution, to see the last of a man who had made himself dreaded through the country by the enormity of his conduct.

Harrow, Jones, and Bosford, were executed at Hertford, March the 28th, 1763, along with John Wright, for a highway robbery on the Buntingfield road.

The unfortunate Mr. Glascock seems to have been a devoted prey to robbers. On the 7th of September, 1764, he was attacked in his own fields by a daring villain, at noon-time of day, who obliged him to go to his house, and deliver his money. On entering, the robber shut the door, knocked the old man down, and carried off every thing valuable that was left by Harrow and his gang, with which he escaped.

### ANN BEDDINGFIELD AND RICHARD RINGE;

THE FORMER BURNT FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND, AND THE LATTER HANGED FOR BEING HER ACCOMPLICE.

JOHN BEDDINGFIELD, the murdered husband, was the son of respectable parents at Sternfield, in Suffolk; and, having married when he was about twenty-four years of age, the young couple were placed in a good farm, which was carefully attended by Beddingfield, who bore the character of a man of industry and integrity. They had two children, and lived in apparent happiness till near the time when the

shocking event happened which gives rise to this melancholy tale.

Richard Ringe, a youth of nineteen, was engaged in the service of Mr. Beddingfield; nor had he been long in the house before his mistress became so enamoured of him that her husband was the object of her contempt. Her behaviour to Ringe was such that he could not long doubt of her favorable inclinations; nor had he virtue to resist the temp-

tation; and they were so incautious in their proceedings that four of the servants were occasional witnesses of their criminal intercourse.

At length Mrs. Beddingfield, having formed the horrid design of destroying her husband, communicated her intention to Ringe, who hesitated on the dreadful proposal, nor consented till she promised that he should share her fortune as the reward of the deed.

Mrs. Beddingfield, blinded by her passion, was now so much off her guard as to say very indiscreet things to her servants, which might lead them to presume that she had determined on the most deliberate wickedness, of which the following is given as one instance:—As she was dressing herself one morning she said to her maid-servant, ‘Help me to put on my ear-rings; but I shall not wear them much longer, for I shall have new black ones. It will not be long before somebody in the house dies, and I believe it will be your master.’

Extravagant as this declaration was, the behaviour of Ringe was not at all more prudent. He purchased some poison, and told one of the servant-maids that he would be her constant friend if she would mix it with some rum and milk that her master was to drink in the morning; but the girl declined having any concern in so horrid a transaction; nor did she take any notice of the proposal that had been made till after the commission of the murder.

Mr. Beddingfield happening to be indisposed, it was recommended to him to take a vomit; but the water which the servant-maid brought him to drink proving too hot, Ringe was directed to bring some cold water to mix with it; and he took this opportunity of

putting arsenic into the water; but Beddingfield, observing a white sediment in the basin, would not drink, though no suspicion of the liquor being poisoned had occurred to him. From this time the intentional murderers resolved not to think of having recourse to poison, but devised another scheme of dispatching the unfortunate object of their vengeance.

Mr. Beddingfield having been selling some cattle to another farmer, they had drank a social glass together, but not to such a degree as to occasion intoxication.

When Mr. Beddingfield came home he found that his wife was in bed with one of the maid-servants, on which he desired her to come to his chamber; but this she refused, it having been determined by Ringe to commit the murder on that night, while his master was asleep; and, when he knew he was in bed, he quitted his own room, passed through that in which his mistress slept, and went to the bed-chamber of his master.

Ringe, observing that Mr. Beddingfield was asleep, threw a cord round his neck to strangle him; but, being hurt by the weight of Ringe lying across him, he struggled so that they both fell off the bed together. However, the horrid deed of murder was soon perpetrated.

Mrs. Beddingfield, being asleep in the next room, was awakened by the noise, and in her fright awakened the servant. At this instant Ringe entered the room, and said ‘I have done for him;’ to which the wife answered, ‘Then I am easy.’ The girl was greatly alarmed, and cried out ‘Master!’ supposing Mr. Beddingfield was present, for there was no light in the room; but Mrs. Beddingfield commanded her to be silent.

Ringe asked the mistress if any one was acquainted with what had passed besides herself and the maid ; on which the girl asked, 'How came you here, Richard?' The villain, terrified by his guilt, replied 'I was forced to it.' He now went to his own room, and laid down ; and the mistress and maid getting up, the latter was charged not to utter a syllable of what had passed.

Mrs. Beddingfield now directed the girl to call Ringe, who seemed offended at being disturbed ; but, when he had struck a light, his mistress told him to go into his master's room, for she was afraid that he was indisposed. Ringe obeyed ; but, on his return, said, with an air of surprise, that his master was dead.

By this time another maid-servant was got up, and the girls, going to their master's room, found the deceased lying on his face, and observed that part of his shirt collar was torn off, and that his neck was black and swelled.

A messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. Beddingfield's parents, who proposed to send for a surgeon ; but the wife insisted that it was unnecessary to call in medical aid, as her husband was already dead.

On the following day the coroner's jury took an inquisition into the cause of his death ; but so superficial was the inquiry, that it lasted only a few minutes, and their determination was that he died a natural death.

The guilty commerce between the murderers now became still more evident than before ; but so fickle was Mrs. Beddingfield's disposition, that in a few weeks she began to despise the man whom she had excited to the murder of her husband.

The servant-maid now resolved

to divulge the fact, but postponed doing so till she had received the wages for her quarter's service. When her mistress had paid her she went to her parents, and discovered all she knew of the matter ; on which a warrant was issued for apprehending the murderers.

They had an item of what was going forward, and therefore attempted to bribe the girl's mother to secrecy : but she rejected their offers ; on which Mrs. Beddingfield made her escape, but was apprehended at the end of two days.

Ringe, however, seemed to disdain consulting his own safety, but remained in the house ; and after he was committed to prison he confessed that he had deemed himself a dead man from the time of his perpetrating the murder.

At the Lent assizes in 1763 the prisoners were brought to trial, when the surgeon and coroner were examined as to what fell within their knowledge. The former confessed that he saw marks of violence on the body ; and, being asked how he could depose before the coroner that Mr. Beddingfield had died a natural death, he replied that he did not think much about it ;—a strange and almost unaccountable declaration !

The preceding part of this narrative will lead the reader to judge of the rest of the evidence that was given on the trial ; and the prisoners, having nothing to allege in extenuation of their crime, were capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction, as well as before, Ringe freely confessed his guilt ; but expressed the utmost anxiety at the thought of being dissected. Mrs. Beddingfield refused to make any confession till the day before her death.

They were placed on one sledge,



the morning of April the 8th, 1763, and conveyed to the place of execution, near Ipswich, called Rushmore, where Ringe made a pathetic address to the surrounding multitude, advising young people to be warned by his fate, to avoid the delusions of wicked women, and to consider chastity as a virtue.

The woman persisted in declaring her innocence, until, finding Ringe had made a full confession, she expressed strong resentment against him: but, when tied to the stake, she acknowledged herself guilty, and declared that she deserved to die for being privy to the murder of her husband, and for having had criminal intercourse with Ringe for three months before it happened.

From the fate of this woman girls should be taught never to think of giving their hands in marriage to a man if they are not cer-

tain of his having full possession of their hearts; and if, after marriage, circumstances of a painful nature should arise, they should patiently recollect that they have drawn an inevitable lot, and endeavour, by a kind and obliging behaviour, to conciliate the husbands' affection; but by no means to think of violating the laws of chastity, without a proper observance of which, jealousy, and all its horrid train of consequences, must ensue; and marriage, otherwise the happiest state in life, be rendered the most miserable.

From the ignominious death of Ringe young men should learn not to listen to the seducing tongue of female beauty; but, having lived a life of virtue till they can obtain each some worthy woman in marriage, do justice to the preference by which they may be distinguished.

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### JOHN RICE, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THOUGH extravagance brought this man to an untimely fate, and though the sum of the forgery was immense, yet few criminals suffered more pitied.

Until the discovery of this forgery, his character remained unimpeached; and his name was good upon 'Change to any reasonable amount.

He was the son of Mr. Rice, of Spital Square, a considerable stock-broker, whose behaviour had rendered him esteemed by all who knew him, and the profits of whose profession enabled him to support his family in a style of the utmost decency.

Young Rice, having received a liberal education, succeeded his father in his business, and was so successful as a broker, that his pro-

fits were estimated at twelve hundred pounds a year.

Unhappily for himself, he lived in too gay a manner, having a country-house at Finchley, an elegant town-house in John Street, near Gray's Inn, and keeping a coach, chaise, chariot, and several livery servants: yet still it is probable that Mr. Rice might have supported his credit, but that, flushed with success, he wished to grow still richer than he was, which led him on to that species of gaming called speculating in the stocks, by which he suffered so greatly, that, at different times, he was said to be a loser to the amount of sixty thousand pounds.

In the vain hope, however, of recovering his circumstances, he was tempted to the commission of

forgery. Among other of his employers was Mrs. Ann Pierce, a Yorkshire lady, who had a very considerable property in South-Sea stock; and in her name Rice was rash enough to forge letters of attorney, by which he received upwards of 19,900*l*.

Mrs. Pierce having occasion to come to town soon after these transactions, Rice, hearing of the intended journey, thought it necessary to consult his safety in flight. He therefore took a post-chaise for Dover, and embarked in the packet-boat for Calais, where he soon landed.

He then travelled to Cambray, a city in French Flanders, and the seat of an archbishop, which he had been taught to consider as a privileged place, where he could remain unmolested. It appears, however, that this is not the case; for the Archbishop of Cambray, though a prince of the empire, is subject to the parliament of Tournay, and had therefore no power to protect a criminal fugitive.

Whether Mrs. Rice knew of her husband's design previous to his departure, or by letter from him, is uncertain; but she determined to follow him, and, taking a post-chaise, reached Harwich, where she embarked in the packet for Holland, designing to travel thence to Cambray; but, the wind proving contrary, the vessel was obliged to put back to Harwich, whence Mrs. Rice returned to London, proposing to re-embark on a future occasion.

It is probable that Mrs. Rice now thought herself in security; but she had no sooner arrived in London than she was taken into custody, and, being carried before the lord-mayor, bank-notes to the amount of 4,700*l*. were found sewed up in her stays.

On her examination she acknowledged whither her husband had retired; and the crime with which he was charged being thought to affect public credit, our ministry dispatched a messenger to the English ambassador at Paris, desiring that he would use his interest with the people in power in France to have the culprit delivered up to the justice of the laws of his native country.

This requisition was instantly complied with; and orders being sent to Cambray to secure Mr. Rice, notice was transmitted to London that he was in custody; on which one of the clerks of the Bank, and another of the South-Sea House, went over, with one of the king's messengers, to bring the unhappy man to England.

On their arrival at the prison of Cambray they found Rice in a state of great dejection. They were proceeding to hand-cuff him; but he instantly fell on his knees, and with tears implored that they would dispense with that disgraceful circumstance. They generously complied; and Rice was placed in one post-chaise with the messenger, the gentlemen preceding them in another.

Having embarked for Dover, they landed, and proceeded immediately towards London. The newspapers having mentioned what had happened respecting Mr. Rice, the public curiosity was so much excited that crowds of people attended at every place where they stopped to take a view of the unfortunate prisoner.

On his arrival in London he was carried before the lord mayor, who remarking the utmost candour, even to generosity, in his answers to the questions that were proposed to him, committed him to the Poultry Compter, instead of sending

him to Newgate, presuming that his situation might be rendered less disagreeable in the former prison than in the latter.

In his way from the Compter to the Old Bailey he fainted several times; and, when brought to the bar, he sunk down without any signs of life; and it was a considerable time before he could be recovered. He was brought to the inner bar, and, being languid, pale, and trembling, was indulged with a chair; but, even then, it was not without assistance that he was kept up while arraigned. He forged four letters of attorney, but was tried only on one, empowering him to sell five thousand pounds, and for fraudulently selling five hundred pounds, part of that sum, to Thomas Brooksbank. His general appearance and extreme distress touched all present on the awful occasion with compassion.

The particulars of the trial consisted chiefly of official proofs of his guilt: in short, the unhappy man had himself acknowledged the forgery before the lord-mayor. When he heard the fatal verdict pronounced he looked up to Lord Mansfield, who presided, with a countenance which bespoke the bitterness of his heart, and, with eyes overflowing with tears, implored the intercession of the Court with his majesty to spare his life.

In answer to this Lord Mansfield advised him not to flatter himself with hope of that mercy which there was no probability of being extended to him. His lordship farther said, 'Considering your crime, and its consequences, in a nation where there is so much paper credit, I must, indeed, tell you, I think myself bound in duty and conscience to acquaint his majesty that you are no object of his mercy.' His lordship farther observed, 'that

all public companies should take warning, by the present instance, carefully to examine all letters of attorney, for the more effectual prevention of fraud.'

After conviction, as well as before, Mr. Rice gave every sign of the most sincere contrition. While under sentence of death he made the most serious preparation for the important change that awaited him. He expected the warrant for his execution some days before it arrived; and when it came the fatal news was concealed from him till his wife, who was then present, had retired.

It is recorded, to the credit of Mr. Rice, that, before he quitted the kingdom, he sent for his tradesmen's bills, and discharged all those that were delivered.

Mr. Rice's friends petitioned that he might be allowed a coach to the place of execution; but this favour was denied, and, on the 4th of May, 1763, he was placed in a cart, and attended by a faithful friend, who was too generous to leave him till the last fatal moment.

At Tyburn, the place of execution, he attended alone to prayers, where he expressed himself with ardour and fervency, suffering the pains of death with a placid hope of a happy immortality; and, perhaps, no man ever expiated his crimes at the fatal tree more universally lamented.

The mother of Mr. Rice was living at the time his misfortunes commenced; and her friends, anxious to alleviate her distress, told her that her son was taken ill at Cambray: they then added that his life was despaired of; and at length said that he was dead. The old lady lived at Stoke Newington; and when, on the day after execution, the criers of dying speeches made their perambulations, the in-



habitants of Newington, with a generosity that will ever do them honour, gave the poor people money not to cry the speeches near her house. Great as the crime was for which this man suffered, it will appear in the eyes of English-

men less reprehensible than the savage conduct of his assignees, who, on taking out a commission of bankruptcy, sold his effects, and among the rest his negro boy!!! A slave in Britain! *proh pudor!*

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MICHAEL SAMPSON,  
CONVICTED OF FORGERY.

We give a place to this case from its presenting a singular extension of the royal mercy in the crime of forgery. The greatest interest since this instance has been made in vain for pardon to forgers, particularly for the two brothers, Robert and Daniel Perreau, Dr. William Dodd, and William Wynne Ryland, whose cases we shall hereafter give, and many others.

Michael Sampson was not, in fact, arrived at the estate of man when he committed a forgery, without, perhaps, being aware of the enormity of the crime, and for which he was tried at the Old Bailey, and found guilty.

He had received a good education, was brought up to the sea service, and already commanded a merchant vessel; and, young as he was, he was distinguished by the appellation of Captain Sampson.

When brought up to the bar, May the 5th, 1764, to receive judgment, on being asked by the clerk of the arraigns, in the usual form, 'Why sentence of death should not be passed upon him?' he thus addressed the Court:—

'My Lords,

'After having voluntarily pleaded guilty, I humbly wait to receive the sentence of the law. Great as my crime is, his majesty's mercy is still greater; and if, in my past conduct, any circumstances have happily appeared, by which I have

(under God) been the means of saving the lives of any of his majesty's subjects (and with truth I can say that I have saved above two hundred from perishing), I hope those circumstances will, in some measure, recommend me, a truly sincere penitent, to his royal mercy; and, if it should be his gracious pleasure to save that forfeited life, which before had been the means of saving so many others, the remainder of it shall be spent in a manner becoming the situation of one sensible of that inestimable blessing.

'My lords, I applied to the Court last sessions to put off my trial, in order that I might be able to lay many favorable circumstances before this Court that might incline your lordships to mercy; but, being advised that those circumstances were more proper to be laid before his royal majesty, I confessed that guilt which in conscience I could not deny.

'Your lordships are men; you feel as men; and, perhaps, may now feel some compassion for an unhappy youth, truly penitent, and not yet twenty years of age.

'Permit me, my lords, to add, that, if your lordships, who are now proceeding according to strict law, shall be pleased to render me any compassionate services, that obligation to myself and my worthy relations, now involved in my suf-

ferings, but not in my guilt, will never be forgotten. But, my lords, if, after all, the bitter cup of justice is not to be removed from me, I humbly submit to thy will, O God, in whom I trust.'

A certain nobleman, high in office, several of whose domestics were among the number whom Sampson had been the principal cause of saving from drowning, used all his influence in favour of the wretched youth; and succeeded in first obtaining a respite, and eventually a pardon. The consideration which moved the royal breast to mercy was, doubtless, his having saved the lives of so many fellow-creatures from perishing in the Dublin packet, bound for Ireland; yet still it opened a door to pardon for an offence which never can be endured in a commercial country like Britain.

When the conditional pardon reached Newgate it was found to include eight unhappy culprits, then under sentence of death, on condition of transportation for life to America; viz. Michael Sampson, William Brown, Richard Bevas, William Bellet, James Wharton, John Boylan, Richard Gray, and John Faulkner; and the following

pardoned on condition of transportation for seven years; viz. Richard Jewes, William Manning, William Smith, and Elizabeth Osborne.

Sampson being asked in the usual manner, as well as all the rest, whether he would accept his majesty's favour on the above condition, he thus replied:—

'My Lord,

'It is entirely above my comprehension to express the gratitude and thanks I owe for such extraordinary mercy to an unfortunate young man, whose life was forfeited to public justice. I most humbly accept of the proffered terms, and will never cease to pray for the eternal happiness of my most benevolent king, through whose most gracious mercy I now exist.

'Words cannot, my lord, yet my future conduct shall demonstrate, that it may not be amiss sometimes to temper justice with mercy. And I most humbly return your lordship, and this honorable Court, my most grateful thanks for the trouble they have been at, and for their generous behaviour towards me.'

This unfortunate young man was sent to Virginia, pursuant to his sentence of transportation.

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### THOMAS WATKINS, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THIS hardened villain was nearly sixty years of age when he committed, with aggravated cruelty, the foul crime for which he most justly underwent the sentence of the law.

In the night of the 4th of February, 1764, some ruffians broke into the house of two maiden ladies of fortune, of the name of Hammersley, residing near Windsor, with such caution, that they took

the ladies' pockets from under their pillows while the owners were asleep. A maid-servant, who it was supposed had been alarmed, was murdered by them on their quitting the house.

The struggles of the poor woman awoke the ladies: they called, but, no answer being made, they got up, procured a light, and, to their horror, found the body of their faithful servant dead, with a hand-

kerchief crammed into her mouth, a cord tight twisted round her neck, and her head forced between her legs, and tied to the foot of the bedstead.

A reward of fifty pounds being offered for the apprehension and conviction of the murderer, Thomas Watkins, by trade a gardener, was taken up on suspicion, and committed to Reading gaol.

His trial occupied eight hours, during which the hardened wretch behaved with the utmost resolution, asked the witnesses many questions, and asserted his innocence in the strongest terms. Though no absolute proof could be adduced of his having committed the murder, yet a great number of concurring circumstances rendered his guilt clear to the jury, who, with little deliberation, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

He was carried in a post-chaise from Reading to Windsor, where the murder was committed, accompanied by the executioner, the under-sheriff, and his javelin-men.

A short time before he was turned off the culprit beckoned to some one among the spectators, when a man named William Innis, a day-labourer, in Clewer Lane, a neighbour to Watkins, thinking it might be for him, went up to the cart, and got upon the stock of the wheel. The malefactor placed his face close to that of Innis, so that their cheeks touched; when the latter said, 'What do you want?'

*Culprit.* Here are a great number of spectators.

*Innis.* Are you guilty? If you are, satisfy the crowd.

*Culprit.* I will not. I have been hanged in chains two days before, in my own way.

*Innis.* What way is that?

*Culprit.* Ask Mrs. H—.

*Innis.* Did you murder the girl?

*Culprit.* I had no design to do it, but she refused to be familiar with me; she would not consent; upon which I took a string out of my pocket, and tied it round her neck, which made her squall out: I then tied it tighter, but did not think of choking her, and then I had my wish.

He attended but little to his devotions, and on the 7th of March, 1764, was launched into eternity, amid the execrations of a vast concourse of people.

His body was afterwards hung in chains.

It was supposed that this obdurate sinner, in his dying moments, would, by his insinuation to Innis, have traduced the good fame of the ladies whose house he had broken open and robbed. Had this been known through the crowd, it was supposed they would have torn him to pieces.

He had an associate or more, evident from their footsteps, and we regret not being able to find that his accomplices were ever apprehended.

## WILLIAM CORBETT,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. AND MRS. KNIGHT.

This man of blood was born at Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, North America, and bred a shipwright. His mother dying when he was very young, he ran away to Connecticut, in New England,

where he entered on board a sloop, and made two or three voyages; but, not living so well as he expected on board the ship, he deserted; and when he came to Boston he contracted himself with a



gentleman who dealt in lumber, which he sent in vessels to the West Indies; and Corbett made several voyages in his service, but was so addicted to drinking and theft, that he received frequent correction for those vices.

At length he sailed to Newfoundland with one Captain Warton, and, as he was a good ship-carpenter, might have been happy in his situation; but his irregularities obliged the captain to dismiss him; on which he procured employment in repairing fishing-boats, and other craft; but, spending his earnings in great extravagance, he involved himself in debt, which obliged him to embark on board a ship for Barbadoes, to avoid a prison.

After this he sailed to several parts of North America, and at length settled at Halifax, in Nova Scotia. At length he sailed to England, and associated with the worst of company in Wapping and Rotherhithe, which tended still farther to debauch a mind already much depraved.

A few weeks before Corbett committed the crime for which he suffered he took lodgings at the house of Mr. Knight, a publican, at Rotherhithe; nor had he been long in the family, which consisted only of the man, his wife, and the maid-servant, before he resolved on the murder of them all; but the maid-servant escaped his fury.

At the Surrey assizes in 1761 William Corbett was indicted for the murder of Henry Knight, and Ann, his wife, by cutting their throats; and was again indicted, on the coroner's inquest, for the said murder; and a third time, for robbing the house. He was found guilty on his own confession, and a variety of collateral evidence.

After having committed the murder, he rifled the house of money, and even put on some of Mr. Knight's linen and other clothes. He then went to Billingsgate, where he was apprehended.

After conviction he acknowledged that he endeavored to set fire to Mr. Knight's house.

On the day of execution, April the 4th, 1764, he was conveyed to Kennington Common, where he again acknowledged his guilt, and, having spent about a quarter of an hour in devotion, underwent the sentence of the law, and was hung in chains on the road between Rotherhithe and Deptford.

At York, on the 10th of August, 1764, Abraham Clayton was executed, and his body anatomized, for the murder of his wife. This unfortunate malefactor had supported a good character; but his wife being of a jealous temper, one day, with bitter words, charging and upbraiding him with keeping company with other women, he instantly strangled her.

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### THOMAS USHER,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

This treacherous thief was clerk to the owner of the Bristol waggon. A captain of a ship having delivered to him, and entered on his books, a parcel to be forwarded to London, containing one thousand eight hundred pounds, the unworthy servant determined on

appropriating it to his own use. Before he set off, willing to plunder to the utmost, he took two hundred pounds belonging to Mr. William James, his master, and even robbed his fellow-servants of their watches.

Upon the discovery of the flight

and robbery, Mr. James pursued him to London, where he had reason to suppose the thief would take refuge. He traced him to the Oxford Arms, in Oxford Road, to which he came in a post-chaise and four, but he soon after set off in a hackney-coach. Mr. James now despaired of tracing him any farther; but, being persuaded to lay the case before Sir John Fielding, the myrmidons of that active magistrate soon found the coachman who had taken up Usher and his hooty. It appeared that he had paid an extra fare to be driven by the Islington road to the Black Bull, at Whitechapel, with a view to evade pursuit. From thence he was followed to Sabridgeworth, in Hertfordshire, and there apprehended. Most of the money lodged by the Bristol captain, which was in Portugal gold, was found upon him.

A letter was also discovered, directed to his wife, appointing her to meet him at an inn on Epping Forest, and to invite her brother

and sister to come along with her, having joyful news to tell them; no less, continued the letter, than a thousand pounds gained in the lottery, and which he had about him.

The wife was, however, deprived of the pleasure of the journey, by the officers apprehending her, on whom they found above one hundred pounds, and one of the watches stolen by her husband, which left little doubt of her having been privy to the robbery.

Usher was brought back to Bristol, and indicted for the offence at the next Court. Upon the trial, the circumstances already related being proved, and the evidence of his master full and positive, he was found guilty, and sentenced for death.

During his execution, which took place at Bristol, May the 4th, 1764, while the attention of the populace was wholly employed upon the malefactor, a single highwayman, well mounted, committed a robbery, in the sight of thousands, and, for a time, escaped!

## JOHN WESKET AND JOHN COOPER;

THE FORMER EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY, THE LATTER TRANSPORTED FOR RECEIVING THE STOLEN PROPERTY.

JOHN WESKET had been many years a gentleman's servant, and had pilfered from several of his employers. In company with one Bradley, he robbed the house of a gentleman in Hatton Garden, with whom the latter lived, and also robbed the chambers of Mr. Montague, a Master in Chancery.

Wesket was engaged as a porter to Lord Harrington, in the year 1762; but continued his acquaintance with Bradley; and was likewise intimate with Cooper, who kept a chandler's shop in Little Turnstile, at whose house Bradley lodged; and both these men visited Wesket at his new place.

Wesket, having formed a plan for robbing his noble master, imparted his design to the other two. He and Bradley agreed to commit the robbery on the following Saturday night, when Lord and Lady Harrington were to go to the Opera, which would give Wesket an opportunity of concealing his accomplice in the house.

Wesket secreted Bradley in his chamber, and told him to remain there till about midnight, when he would come to him.

Lord Harrington and his lady came from the Opera about twelve at night; and in less than two hours afterwards, when all the family

were quiet, Wesket went to his accomplice, and took him into the kitchen, where an impression from Bradley's dirty shoes was made on the dresser; and they then made a similar impression in the area, first leaving the kitchen window open, as an intimation that the robber had gone off that way.

They now went into the study, where they lighted a candle; and Wesket having forced open the bureau by means of a gimlet and a chisel, they took out notes, jewels, and money, to the amount of two thousand pounds, all which Wesket consigned to Bradley's care, bidding him carry the booty to Cooper; and then let him out at the street door, and went to bed.

When Lord Harrington went into his study he discovered the depredation that had been made on his property; whereupon a strict search was made through the house, to find which way the thief had escaped: and now it was that the impression of Bradley's shoes was noticed on the dresser and in the area; but, as it was observed that no footsteps appeared except in the kitchen and area, it was presumed that some person within the house had committed the robbery.

The chisel, gimlet, and tinder-box, were found by the steward, who interrogated Wesket respecting the robbery; and some suspicion arising that he had a concern in it, Lord Harrington sent for a magistrate, who questioned all the servants in the strictest manner; and Wesket, in whose pocket ten guineas were found, was turned away, on the presumption of his guilt, as nothing arose that could justify the magistrate in committing him to prison.

He was no sooner dismissed than he went into one of the boxes at Covent Garden Theatre, when Bradley, happening to see him

from the gallery, waited for him at the playhouse door, after the entertainment was over. Wesket having informed his companion of what had passed since the robbery, Bradley told him what booty had been obtained, and desired him to come to Cooper's and inspect it. They accordingly met on the following day; when Bradley, representing the danger of trying to put off the notes in London, proposed to attempt doing it at Chester fair.

This being agreed to, Bradley went to the fair, where he purchased a quantity of linen, for which he paid the notes to the Irish dealers, and received the balance in cash.

The Earl of Harrington having kept the number of one of the notes of which he had been robbed, it was carried to the Bank, where the payment of it was stopped; and it was traced through the hands of many persons to those of Mr. Smith, a Liverpool merchant, who said she took it of Mr. Breath, a linen factor, at Newry, in Ireland.

Mr. Breath being written to, his answer was that he received it of a person at Chester fair, who said his name was Walker, and was dressed like a gentleman, but had nothing in his behaviour that could warrant his assuming that title.

On this Lord Harrington's steward went to endeavour to learn where the supposed Walker had lodged during the fair, which he found to have been at the house of a shoemaker named Rippington. He learned farther that Walker had set out for London in a post-chaise, and, on his arrival in the metropolis, had written a letter, desiring that a pocket-book, which he had left behind him, might be sent to the St. Clement's Coffee-house, in the Strand.

The steward, having received this letter, brought it to London, and



delivered it to Sir John Fielding, when it was discovered to be Bradley's writing. The active magistrate caused several persons to attend at the coffee-house; but no discovery arose from this diligence.

Bradley's person was immediately described in hand-bills, which were circulated through the kingdom, and a reward offered for taking him.

At this juncture a hackney-coachman declared, in a public house, that in his hay-loft was a large chest belonging to one Bradley; and that Cooper had delivered the chest to his care, but he knew not its contents. On this Cooper was sent for to Sir John Fielding's; and, strong suspicions of the guilt both of him and Wesket arising,

they were committed to Newgate for trial.

In a few days Bradley was found, dressed in seaman's apparel, at a public house in Wapping; and, being conducted to Bow Street, he made such a declaration respecting the robbery, that Sir John Fielding thought proper to admit him an evidence against the other parties.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey Wesket and Cooper were brought to trial; when the former was capitally convicted for the burglary, and sentenced to die; and Cooper was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years, as the receiver of the stolen effects.

Wesket suffered at Tyburn, January the 9th, 1765.

## BARNEY CARROL AND WILLIAM KING,

EXECUTED FOR CUTTING AND MAIMING.

CARROL and KING had both been soldiers, and, as such, behaved unexceptionably, particularly at the siege of the Havannah, where Carrol was distinguished by his bravery; but on their return to England they determined to commence robbers, and this on a plan attended with the most infernal cruelty.

They procured two boys, named Byfield and Matthews, who were to pick pockets, and, in case they were seized, the men were to procure their release by cutting the parties who held them across their faces with a knife.

Carrol having sharpened his weapon of destruction, they all went out together on the night of the 17th of June, 1765, and, continuing their route from Covent Garden to the Strand, saw a gentleman named Kirby, near Somerset House, who was walking very slowly, on account of the heat of the weather, which made them think him a proper object of attack.

On this Carrol directed Byfield to pick the gentleman's pocket. Byfield had got his hand in the pocket, when Mr. Kirby seized him, and threatened to carry him before a magistrate, but only to terrify him from such practices for the future.

On this the other three villains followed Mr. Kirby so closely that he suspected their connexion; but he still held the boy, to frighten him the more, though he observed Carrol sometimes before and sometimes behind him. At length the villain came so near, that the boy cried out 'Keep off, the gentleman will let me go!' when Carrol replied 'Damn him, but I will cut him!'

A gentleman named Carr coming up at this juncture, and observing what was going forward, desired Mr. Kirby to consult his safety, for that a gang of villains surrounded him. Mr. Kirby now requested Mr. Carr to walk after him, to prevent an assault; with which

he complied; but still the rascals did not quit their iniquitous design.

Carrol, running past Mr. Carr, at the end of Arundel Street, cut Mr. Kirby across the nose and eyes in the most severe manner, calling out, 'Damn you! let the boy go.'

This assault being observed by Mr. Carr, he seized Carrol's arm, and at this instant Kirby, letting go the boy, struck at Carrol; but the blow happening to fall on Mr. Carr's hand, the villain made his escape.

The rogues then ran off towards St. Clement's church, and escaped through an alley into Wych Street, though closely pursued by the gentleman.

Mr. Kirby now felt great pain, but had no idea that he had been wounded by any sharp instrument, apprehending that his pain proceeded only from a common blow. At length he found a defect in his sight, and presumed that dust had

been thrown in his eyes; but, putting his hand to his face, he found that it streamed with blood.

Going to the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in the Strand, Mr. Ingram, a surgeon of eminence, almost immediately attended him; but, although the utmost expedition was used in calling in the assistance of that gentleman, Mr. Kirby had lost near two quarts of blood in the short interval.

On examination it appeared that the wound was given in a transverse direction, from the right eye to the left temple; that two large vessels were divided by it; that there was a cut across the nose, which left the bone visible; and that the eye-balls must have been divided by the slightest deviation from the stroke.

The abominable assassins were very soon apprehended, and found guilty under the Coventry Act\*, and hanged at Tyburn, July 31st, 1765, amid the execrations of an offended multitude.

\* By an act of parliament passed in the 22d and 25d of King Charles II. it is enacted that, 'If any person, on purpose, and by malice aforethought, and by laying in wait, shall unlawfully cut or disable the tongue, put out an eye, slit the nose, cut off a nose or lip, or cut off or disable any limb or member of any subject, with intention, in so doing, to maim or disfigure him, the person so offending, his counsellors, aiders, abettors (knowing of, and privy to, the offence), shall be guilty of felony, without benefit of clergy.'

This act is called the 'Coventry Act,' because it was made on Sir John Coventry's being assaulted in the street, and having his nose slit, on the following occasion:—

In the committee of ways and means, in the House of Commons, it had been resolved that, towards the supply, every one that resorts to any of the play-houses, who sits in the boxes, shall pay one shilling; every one who sits in the pit shall pay sixpence; and every other person threepence. This resolution (to which the House disagreed upon the report) was opposed in the committee by the courtiers, who gave for a reason, 'That the players were the king's servants, and a part of his pleasure.'

To this Sir John Coventry, one of the members, by way of reply, asked 'Whether the king's pleasure lay among the men or among the women players?' This being reported at court, it was highly resented; and a resolution was privately taken to set a mark on Sir John, to prevent others from taking the like liberties.

December the 20th was the night that the House of Commons adjourned for the Christmas holidays. On the 25th, one of the Duke of Monmouth's troop of life-guards, and some few foot, lay in wait from ten at night till two in the morning, by Suffolk Street; and as Sir John returned from the tavern, where he supped, to his own house, they threw him down, and, with a knife, cut the end of his nose almost off; but company coming made them fearful to finish it.

The debates which this affair occasioned in the House of Commons ran very high. One of the members emphatically called the attack on Coventry 'A horrid un-English act.' During the debate Dr. Arras made an extraordinary motion for a bill to punish any man that should speak reflectively on the king. By some he was called to order, but his explanation and excuse were admitted of.

He said he was the only physician of the House, and, *humanum est errare*, he hoped he should be pardoned.



*Mrs. Glass and her Daughter imploring the Pirates to save their Lives.*

**PETER M'KINLIE, GEORGE GIDLEY, ANDREW ZEKERMAN, AND RICHARD ST. QUINTIN,**

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

BEFORE we enter upon the bloody deeds of these inhuman monsters, we shall present our readers with an account of the cruel fortune of Captain John Glass, who had fought against the enemies of his country; and, after undergoing from them a long series of cruel treatment, at length fell a victim to the abominable cruelty of the pirates above named.

This unfortunate man was the son of the Reverend Mr. John Glass, a minister of the Church of Scotland, who in several publications zealously opposed the practice of religion according to particular forms. The adherents to his religious opinions obtained the appellation of Glassites; and his doctrines being first propagated in England by Mr.

Sandeman, his son-in-law, those who adopted them were called Sandemanians.

At a very early period young Mr. Glass afforded strong proof of an acute and penetrating understanding, greatly beyond what could be reasonably expected at his tender years.

After the fine genius of this promising youth had received some cultivation at a respectable grammar-school, he was removed to the University, where he attained to a great proficiency in the sciences.

Having taken up the degree of Master of Arts, he applied himself to the study of physic and surgery, in which he made a rapid progress. He afterwards engaged as a surgeon on board a trading vessel bound to



the coast of Guinea; and in that capacity made several voyages to America.

His superior qualifications gained him a distinguished place in the esteem of several capital merchants, who intrusted to him the command of a vessel in the Guinea trade; and his conduct proved highly to the advantage of his owners, and equally honorable to himself.

When the war against France was declared, Captain Glass, upon the minute review of his affairs, found himself in possession of a very considerable sum; a great part of which he determined to venture on board a privateer.

He caused a vessel to be fitted out with all possible expedition, and took the command on himself. A mutiny happened among the sailors when they had been on board about three days; and news of this disagreeable circumstance being communicated to the captain, he hastened to the vessel, and, going upon deck, dared to single combat any man who should presume to dispute his authority; but his challenge was declined; and, by coolly representing the dangerous consequences that might result from such unjustifiable proceedings, exhorting them to an exact observance of necessary discipline, and assuring them that his utmost endeavours should be exerted to procure them satisfaction in every particular, the harmony and good understanding of his crew were restored; and in a short time after the vessel proceeded on her voyage.

In about ten days they made a prize of a ship, richly laden, belonging to France, which they carried into a port in the West Indies.

They soon after engaged two ships of war, but, after an obstinate contest, were compelled to submit to the superior power of the ene-

my. The captain, however, did not strike his flag till he had received a dangerous wound on the shoulder, and the greatest part of his men were slain. He was put into one of the French prisons, where he experienced very severe treatment.

An exchange of prisoners taking place, Captain Glass was no sooner restored to freedom than he resolved to make a reserve of two thousand pounds, and to venture the remainder of his fortune on board a privateer.

He had sailed in his second vessel but a short time when he was again conquered by the enemy, and conveyed to a French prison.

Captain Glass, on his return to England, was esteemed one of the most expert, judicious, and intrepid seamen in the British navy.

The war being concluded, he conceived a design of sailing in search of discoveries; and, in pursuance of this plan, he purchased a vessel adapted to his purpose; and, having carefully made every necessary preparation for the prosecution of his design, directed his course towards the coast of Africa.

Between the river Senegal and Cape de Verd he discovered a commodious harbour, from which circumstance he entertained the reasonable expectation that very great commercial advantages would be derived.

The captain now returned to England, and communicated his discovery to government, who granted him an exclusive trade to the harbour for the space of twenty years.

That he might be enabled to pursue his project with the greater advantage, he engaged in partnership with two or three gentlemen of fortune; and a vessel, furnished with all necessary articles, being prepared, he sailed for the harbour,

where he arrived without meeting with any occurrences worthy of recording.

He sent one of his men on shore, with orders for offering proposals for a commercial intercourse with the natives; but the messenger had no sooner landed than he was cruelly murdered by the barbarians.

The captain now suggested a plan for informing the king of the country that, by opening a trade, his subjects would derive great advantages.

The king affected the utmost willingness to comply with his proposals; but, under the appearance of friendship, endeavored to effect his destruction. Having failed in other treacherous schemes, he sent poisoned provisions to Captain Glass, who prudently made experiments upon them, and by that means preserved his life.

Being in great distress for the necessaries of life, Captain Glass and three of his men ventured to sea in an open boat, intending to direct their course towards the Canaries, for the purpose of purchasing provisions.

The natives, being apprized of their departure, attempted to plunder the ship; but they were effectually repulsed by the remaining part of the crew.

The men who continued in the vessel being extremely distressed, judging that it would be dangerous to remain longer in the harbour, and despairing of their captain's return so early as was expected, they sailed for England, where they arrived, after encountering a variety of dangers, difficulties, and distresses.

Captain Glass arrived at one of the Canary Islands, and presented a petition to the governor, supplicating permission to purchase provisions; but the inhuman Spaniard caused him to be apprehended as a

spy, and ordered him to be confined in a noisome dungeon, where he was allowed no other sustenance than bread and water; and, to aggravate his distress, the barbarous tyrant denied him the use of pen, ink, and paper.

In this unhappy situation the captain remained upwards of six months. At length he climbed up to the iron bars that were across the space for admitting light to the dungeon, and perceived an English vessel in the harbour. The sight of a vessel belonging to his native country inspired him with hopes of regaining his liberty; but his despair was renewed upon considering the apparent impossibility of making his miserable fate known to those who would be inclined to afford him relief.

At length he adopted the following expedient:—by means of a piece of charcoal he wrote his name, and some words intimating his distress, upon a biscuit, which he fortunately dropped from the grate of the dungeon at the moment when an English sailor was passing beneath. The man, observing the captain's name upon the biscuit, carried it to his commander, who immediately made application to the governor for the relief of his countryman. In consequence of this humane intercession, the cruel and tyrannical Spaniard subjected the petitioner to severity of treatment equal to that sustained by Captain Glass.

A ship that soon afterwards sailed for England conveyed news to our ministry of the arbitrary and barbarous conduct of the governor; and, speedy application being made to the King of Spain, he issued an order for the release of the two captains.

About the time that Captain Glass recovered his freedom, his

wife and daughter, a young lady about twelve years old, remarkable for her beauty and fine accomplishments, arrived at the Canaries, on board a ship from London; and their first interview with him afforded a scene truly affecting.

Captain Glass now embarked, with his wife and daughter, on board a ship bound to London, under the command of Captain Cockeran.

While the ship lay at the Canaries, a plot was concerted between Peter M'Kinlie, the boatswain, a native of Ireland; George Gidley, the cook, born in the west of Yorkshire; Richard St. Quintin, a native of the same country; and Andrew Zekerman, a Dutchman—for murdering all the other persons on board, and seizing the treasure, which, including what Captain Glass had shipped in behalf of himself and his partners, amounted to a hundred thousand pounds in dollars.

The villains made three attempts on different nights to carry their horrid plan into execution, but were prevented through the circumsppection of their commander.—The conspirators were appointed to the night-watch on the 13th of November, when the ship had reached the British Channel; and, about midnight, the captain going upon the quarter-deck to see that all things were disposed in proper order, he, upon his return, was seized by the boatswain, who held him while Gidley struck him with an iron bar, and fractured his skull, after which they threw him into the sea. Two of the seamen, who were not concerned in the conspiracy, hearing the captain's groans, came upon deck, and were immediately murdered and thrown overboard.

Captain Glass, being alarmed, went up the gangway, and, judg-

ing that a mutiny had happened, returned to fetch his sword. M'Kinlie, guessing his design, followed him down the steps leading to the cabin, and waited in the dark till the captain returned with a drawn sword in his hand, when, getting unpereceived behind him, he seized both his arms, and then called to his accomplices to murder him. Captain Glass, being a very powerful man, had nearly disengaged himself from the ruffian, when Zekerman came up, whom the captain wounded in the arm; but before he could recover his sword he was overpowered, the other villains soon joining their associates. The unhappy man was no sooner disarmed than he was many times run through the body; after which he was thrown overboard.

Mrs. Glass and her daughter now came on deck, and, falling on their knees, supplicated for mercy; but they found the villains utterly destitute of the tender feelings of humanity; and Zekerman telling them to prepare for death, they embraced each other in a most affectionate manner, and were then forced from each other's arms and thrown into the sea.

Having put all the crew to death, excepting a boy who had attended Captain Glass, and another boy who was an apprentice on board the ship, the murderers steered towards the Irish coast, and on the 3d of December found themselves within ten leagues of the harbour of Ross. They hoisted out the long-boat, and put into it dollars to the amount of two tons; and, after knocking out the windows of the ballast ports, rowed towards shore, leaving the two boys to sink with the vessel.

Captain Glass's boy could not swim, and he was therefore soon drowned; but the other lad swam



to the boat, when Zekerman struck him a violent blow on the breast, which occasioned him immediately to sink.

Having thus massacred eight innocent persons, the villains proceeded to the mouth of the river Ross; but, thinking it would be dangerous to go up the river with so much riches, they buried two hundred and fifty bags of dollars in the sand, and conveyed as much treasure as they could possibly bear about their persons to a village called Fishertown, where they stopped for refreshment; and, during their regale, an Irishman privately robbed them of a bag containing twelve hundred dollars.

On the following day they went to Ross, and there sold twelve hundred dollars. Having purchased each a pair of pistols, and hired horses for themselves and two guides, they rode to Dublin, and took up their residence at the Black Bull, in Thomas Street.

The wreck of the ship was driven on shore on the day of their leaving Ross; and the manner in which the villains had lived at Fishertown and Ross, their general behaviour, and other circumstances, being understood as grounds for suspicion of their being pirates, an express was dispatched by two gentlemen to the lords of the regency at Dublin, exhibiting the several causes of suspicion, and giving a particular description of the supposed delinquents.

On board the wreck was found a sampler worked by Miss Glass, from which it appeared that a part of the work was done on her birth-

day, which afterwards proved to be the day preceeding that on which the murders were perpetrated; and this sampler proved a principal means of leading to a discovery of the guilt of these abominable villains.

The gentlemen who were commissioned to attend the lords of the regency had no sooner communicated their business than the lord-mayor and sheriffs were sent for; and proper instructions being given them, they on the same night caused M'Kinlie and Zekerman to be taken into custody.

The prisoners were separately examined, and they both confessed the particulars of their guilt, and that their accomplices had that morning hired a post-chaise for Cork, where they meant to embark on board a vessel bound for England.

Gidley and St. Quintin were the next day taken into custody at an inn on the road to Cork; and they followed the example of their accomplices, in acknowledging themselves guilty. The sheriff of Ross took possession of the effects found in the wreck, and the bags of dollars that the villains had buried in the sand, and deposited the whole in the treasury of Dublin, for the benefit of the proprietors.

The prisoners being brought to trial, they confessed themselves guilty of the charges alleged in the indictment, and they were condemned, and suffered death, December the 19th, 1765, after which their bodies were hung in chains in the neighbourhood of Dublin.

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### WILLIAM JAKUES,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF A BLACK MAN.

This treacherous murderer was a seaman in the royal navy, and a disgrace to that brave and

generous set of people. He belonged to the Stag frigate, and the black man was also one of the

crew. They had lately been paid off, and each received twenty-eight pounds.

Jaques soon squandered away his share in dissipation among lewd women, and determined to replace it by robbing the negro. For this purpose he decoyed his victim into a wood, and, taking him unawares, he dashed his brains out with a hedge-stake, rilled his pockets, and then made his escape.

In a few days the corpse was found; and suspicion falling on Jaques, from their having been seen in company, he was pursued and

taken in a public house at the De-vizes. There were found upon him sixteen thirty-six-shilling pieces; and about his neck was the handkerchief of the deceased. He had with him the bloody stake; with which he committed the murder, and immediately confessed the crime, and signed his confession.

He also acknowledged that he had murdered three more men, and had robbed a gentleman on Hounslow Heath of ten pounds. He was a wretch who drew little pity for his fate, and was executed at Salisbury, in August, 1764.

### RICHARD SWIFT,

TRANSPORTED FOR BUYING STOLEN GOODS.

SWIFT was the son of poor people living near St. Luke's Church, Old Street, who gave him some share of education, and bound him apprentice to a turner. During the term of his servitude he associated with a number of abandoned people, who supported themselves by thieving; and, when the period specified in his indenture was expired, he wasted the greatest part of his time in the company of those profligate wretches at an infamous house in Golden Lane.

Swift by some means ingratiated himself into the favour of a brewer, and had the address to interest him so warmly in his behalf, that he put him into a public house in Old Street, which was known by the sign of the Barley Mow, and had been long a receptacle for thieves of every denomination.

When Swift commenced landlord he afforded all possible encouragement to his iniquitous customers, who, after spending the day at his house in blasphemy, drunkenness, and riot, constantly departed on the approach of night, in order to commit depredations on the public.

The persons inhabiting the neighbourhood where Swift lived were so dissatisfied with his conduct, and made such frequent complaints of the irregularities committed by his customers, that he was under the necessity of changing his place of abode; and, taking an alehouse near Shoreditch Church, he persisted in his usual course of wickedness, instructing thieves in what manner to obtain booties, frequently assisting in the actual commission of robberies, and constantly receiving the goods stolen by his associates.

It is supposed that, before Swift was brought to justice, upwards of twenty men were hanged, and a much greater number transported, whom he had instructed and encouraged in the various arts of thieving; and, though it is known that he was many times committed to Newgate, and the New Gaol, Southwark, for offences of various kinds, he escaped the sentence of the law till he was upwards of fifty years of age.

Swift and some of his associates followed a waggon one evening from Snow Hill to the Cock Inn,

Aldersgate Street; where Swift, being known to some of the ostlers, left his accomplices (Fossett, and a Jew named Solomons), giving them directions to steal as many goods from the waggon as they should be able, and bring them to him.

Fossett and Solomons concealed themselves in the yard; and, after waiting some time, observed the ostler and waggoner go into the tap-room together. They seized this opportunity of robbing the waggon, whence they stole a box containing seventy-two pounds of candles. They carried the box to Bishopsgate Street, where they opened it, but were greatly disappointed upon finding what it contained; for they imagined that they had acquired a valuable booty of plate. They carried the candles to Swift's house; and he gave them a small sum for the stolen goods, in order to encourage them to commit robberies of more consequence.

Fossett being apprehended on suspicion of the above robbery, he was examined by Sir John Fielding, to whom he confessed the particulars of the fact; and Swift having been long known as a daring violator of the laws, it was judged expedient to admit Fossett an evidence for the crown.

In consequence of Fossett's information Swift was apprehended, and indicted for purchasing goods knowing them to be stolen. The evidence against him being indisputable, he was convicted, and sentenced to transportation for fourteen years.

He had not been in America a month when he embarked as a passenger on board a vessel bound to Liverpool; and, at the expiration of the year 1764, he landed at that town.

On his way to London he stopped at Coventry, where he was appre-

hended, and secured in prison. At the ensuing assizes he was brought to trial before Sir Henry Gould. The record of his former conviction being produced, it appeared that the person who wrote it, in specifying the weight of the candles, had inserted seventy instead of seventy-two. The prisoner, having heard the copy of his conviction read, pointed out the error, and requested the judge to allow him counsel, which was readily granted. After the case had been argued in a very learned manner, the judge declared that the error was fatal to the indictment, and that the prisoner must therefore be acquitted.

When Swift was on the point of being discharged, one of Sir John Fielding's men made oath that an accusation was lodged against him for stealing a quantity of cotton in the county of Middlesex. Hereupon he was ordered to be conveyed to London.

No indictment was found against him for stealing the cotton; but, being put to the bar of the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, the Court ordered him to be transported for the remaining part of his former sentence.

Richard Swift was a second time put on board of one of the transport vessels on the 24th of April, 1765.

Since the time of Jonathan Wild the above malefactor was one of the most notorious receivers of stolen goods by which this country has been infested. If such delinquents were to be punished by death, it is beyond a question that great advantages would accrue to the public; for, if thieves were to find a difficulty in disposing of their booties, they would be effectually discouraged from pursuing illegal courses; and those who should be



hardly enough to continue them would seldom escape the justice due to their iniquity.

Receivers of stolen goods are to be classed among the most infamous species of felons. They encourage robbers, and are therefore acces-

sory to the crimes they commit; they are guilty even of a species of deliberate murder, since the practices they countenance seldom fail to bring the more immediate perpetrators thereof to violent and premature death.

## PATRICK OGILVIE AND CATHARINE NAIRN,\*

CONVICTED OF MURDER.

As the case of these malefactors made a great noise in the world at and after the commission of the crime, we shall be the more careful to give all the particulars of it.

At East Miln, in the county of Forfar, in Scotland, lived Mr. Thomas Ogilvie, a man of moderate fortune, whose life was of the domestic kind, with his mother, till he was about forty years of age, when he married Catharine, the beautiful daughter of Sir Thomas Nairn, of Dunsinan, on the 31st of January, 1765, the young lady being then about twenty-one years of age.

Patrick Ogilvie, the brother of Thomas, having served as a lieutenant in the East Indies, returned to Scotland soon after the celebration of the nuptials, and went to congratulate his brother on the occasion.

From this visit arose all that scene of distress which gives rise to the following narrative; for Patrick having beheld his sister with eyes of unwarrantable love, they were seen within three weeks after the wedding, by the servants, walking in the fields with too great familiarity, and kissing each other with all the fondness of enraptured lovers.

Soon afterwards Anne Clarke, a kinswoman of Mr. Ogilvie, paying a visit in the family, remarked a

great intimacy between the lovers, who frequently went to bed together without the precaution of shutting the chamber-door. Mrs. Clarke remarked on the scandalous impropriety of the lady's conduct; but, so far from blushing at it, she boasted of her love for her brother-in-law, with whom she said she would abscond, or otherwise give a dose to her husband, whom she detested.

Mr. Ogilvie the elder was of so pacific a disposition, that, though the criminal conversation became every day more conspicuous, he contented himself with representing to his brother how much he dishonored the family by so sinful a practice; but he did not even forbid him the house.

At length he paid the lieutenant a sum of money bequeathed him by his father; and then Patrick departed, to take the diversions of the country: but he still corresponded with his sister-in-law; and they left letters for each other under a stone, and even occasionally met together in the fields.

When this was known, the injured husband, so far from resenting the conduct of his brother, wrote to him, expressing his inclination to bequeath him both his wife and the principal part of his estate, saying he would consult his

\* It may be proper to observe that in Scotland women are sometimes called by their maiden names after marriage. Hence this unhappy woman is called Nairn instead of Ogilvie.

own peace of mind in retirement: he even entreated him to return, adding 'My wife cannot be happy without you.'

Mrs. Nairn had, in the mean time, written to Patrick Ogilvie to send her some poison; and accordingly he sent her some white arsenic, under the name of salts, for her use.

Mrs. Clarke, above mentioned, no sooner heard that the packet was arrived, than she cautioned Mr. Ogilvie not to drink any thing given him by his wife, unless she first partook of it: but this precaution proved fruitless; for the unhappy man being ill one morning, his wife conveyed a quantity of the arsenic into a basin of tea which the maid-servant was carrying to him; and then the base woman waited at his bed-side while he drank it.

The most excruciating pains in his bowels, accompanied with a violent retching, was the consequence of this draught, and at nine at night Mr. Ogilvie expired in the greatest agony, after a marriage of little more than four months, during which he scarcely enjoyed one happy day.

His brother now gave directions respecting the funeral; but, in the mean time, Mrs. Clarke wrote to a younger brother of the deceased, who was then a student at Edinburgh, intimating her suspicions that Mr. Ogilvie had been poisoned. Hereupon the young gentleman set out for East Miln, being determined to inquire into the real state of the case. He took with him the under-sheriff of the county, and two surgeons. The under-sheriff recommended opening the body of the deceased; but, as he had been dead six days, and as it was now the middle of June, and the weather intensely hot, this was

opposed by the surgeons, lest some noisome effluvia should arise from the body.

The presumed murderers were now taken into custody, and committed to the prison of Forfar, whence they were removed to Edinburgh, to take their trials in the High Court of Justiciary. Mrs. Clarke had concealed herself from the time that the murder was committed; but on the 3d of August, 1765, she went to Edinburgh, and surrendered herself to the lord-advocate, as the trials of the offenders were to commence on the Monday following. Hereupon his lordship committed her, and two women-servants of the deceased, to the Castle, that there might be no obstruction to the course of public justice.

The prisoners being brought into court on the appointed day, a copy of their indictments, with a list of the jury and witnesses, was respectively delivered to them; and then the Court was adjourned to the 12th of the same month, at eight in the morning.

In the interim the counsel for the prisoners petitioned the Court that Anne Clarke might be removed from her usual place of confinement with the servant-maids, lest she should prevail on them to perjure themselves, to the prejudice of the prisoners.

The Court granted the prayer of this petition; and Mrs. Clarke was removed into another room: but Lord George Beaucherk, the then commander-in-chief of the forces in North Britain, caused her to be conveyed to her former place of confinement, on an information that the room in which the governor of the castle had placed her was not secure enough to prevent her escape.

Complaint of this procedure be-

ing made by the counsel for the prisoner, Lord George insisted that it was his duty to prevent the escape of the evidence, notwithstanding any order of Court.

The trial was at length proceeded upon on Monday, the 12th of August, and continued without intermission till three o'clock on the Wednesday morning, when the jury retired, and at four in the afternoon of that day gave their verdict that the prisoners were both guilty.

The lord-advocate now demanded that judgment should be passed on them; but this was opposed by their counsel, who urged that there were several informalities in the trial, which would destroy the force of the verdict, as they were incompatible with the principles of the laws of Scotland.

On this a debate ensued, which continued near five hours, when the Lord Justice Clerk declared that, unless a special plea was stated in arrest of judgment, he would pronounce sentence against the prisoners.

Hereupon it was agreed that, on the following day, at eleven o'clock, the arguments in writing should be delivered into court; and, when that was done, a farther argument of six hours ensued thereon.

The counsel for the prisoners, having at length no other plea left to urge, hinted that Mrs. Nairn was with child, but did not pretend to say how far she might be advanced in her pregnancy.

On this sentence of death was passed against Patrick Ogilvie, to be executed on the 25th of September, in the Grass Market, Edinburgh; and Mrs. Nairn being remanded to prison, orders were given for a jury of matrons to be summoned on the following day,

to inquire into her real situation.

The Court being once more assembled, the matrons were sworn, and retired; and, on their return, declared that they could not determine whether she was pregnant or not. On this the judgment against her was suspended till November; and the matrons were directed to visit her frequently in the interval.

The utmost interest of the relations of the convicts was now exerted to prevent the disgrace of a public execution, by procuring a reprieve for Mr. Ogilvie, who constantly asserted his innocence respecting the death of his brother.

Such diligence was used in this matter, that Counsellor M'Carty was heard in his behalf before the king in council, where he contended for a right of appealing from the decision of the Court of Justiciary to the House of Lords.

The lord-advocate of Scotland, in reply hereto, insisted that the determination of the Court of Justiciary must be final, as it was a criminal court, in which the prisoner had been tried and convicted by a jury of his countrymen. He referred to the 19th article of the Act of Union, by which the Court of Justiciary was established.

The matter having been maturely considered, Mr. Ogilvie was left to suffer the sentence of the law.

The day before his death he was attended by two clergymen, and several of his friends, to whom he made a solemn avowal of his innocence of the facts alleged against him, and thought that his brother, who had undertaken the prosecution, had behaved in a manner undeservedly rigorous; yet he declared that he should die in perfect charity with all mankind.

At the place of execution he made an address to the populace,



still asserting his innocence; and, as soon as he had concluded his devotions, he was turned off, amidst an immense concourse of people. No sooner was he turned off, than, the rope slipping, he dropped to the ground; but, being immediately tied up again, he said aloud, 'I adhere to my former confession, and die an innocent man.' This being said, he was executed, and his body delivered to a surgeon for dissection.

This unhappy man suffered in the Grass Market at Edinburgh on the 13th of November, 1765.

Mrs. Nairn having remained in custody till November, it then appeared that she was pregnant, on which she was respited till the time when she should be brought to bed, which was in the month of January, 1766.

After she had been delivered a month an order was issued for her execution; but, a short time before this event would have taken place, she escaped from the prison at nine at night, in the uniform of an officer; and an old footman, who had lived in her father's family, being waiting for her with a post-chaise, they set off together.

Mrs. Nairn was not missed till near noon on the following day; and persons were sent express to re-apprehend her; but she had arrived in London before them.

She now engaged the master of a Dutch fishing-smack to convey her to Holland for fifty guineas; but the wind blew with such violence that he was obliged to land

her on the Kentish shore, whence she travelled to Dover, attended by her faithful servant. They immediately got on board the packet-boat bound for Calais; and no authentic accounts respecting her have transpired since that period.

Such were the different fates of two people, who, as far as we can judge of the affair, appear to have been involved in the same crime. The one dies, avowing his perfect innocence; the other escapes the immediate stroke of justice, which was suspended over her by the most slender thread.

Mysterious are the ways of Providence, and, in the language of Scripture, 'past finding out;' but it is for mortals humbly to submit to all its dispensations.

One pertinent remark will naturally arise on this occasion, *viz.* the absurdity of disproportionate marriages. Mr. Thomas Ogilvie was nearly twice the age of his wife, and had therefore much the less chance of happiness with her.

The band of marriage will be frequently found to be a rope of sand where fortune is made the sole consideration on either side, and where unity of mind, and a tolerable equality in age, are not consulted.

We make this remark for the sake of those parents who may be tempted to compel their children to unequal marriages on the idea that riches alone can bestow that happiness which must generally, if not always, depend on *consent of mind*.

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### FATHER SHEEBY, JAMES BUXTON, AND JAMES FARRELL, OTHERWISE CALLED BUCK FARRELL,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

ABOUT this time (1766) Ireland was greatly convulsed by a lawless banditti, calling themselves White

Boys, who committed numberless atrocities in armed bodies. They were secretly encouraged, as was

then reported, by several disaffected Roman Catholic priests, who seduced various misguided men of property of their persuasion to connive at and assist them in their nefarious practices.

In the present instance this plotting priest persuaded Mr. Buxton, a gentleman of great property, and Mr. Farrell, a gay thoughtless youth, of good family, and many others, to murder several Protestants who opposed the depredations of the White Boys.

On the 28th of October, 1764, this gang of murderers met on the lands of Shanally, where they were sworn by Father Sheeby, a Roman Catholic priest, to murder J. Bridge, Esq. J. Bagnall, Esq. the Reverend Dr. Hewitson, and, in fine, every person who might oppose them. He likewise swore them to be true to the French king, and to assist him to conquer Ireland, whereby they might completely establish the Roman Catholic religion.

Thus prepared, these accursed enthusiasts sallied out in pursuit of the blood of their fellow-creatures. They soon seized Mr. Bridge, accused him of giving information against the White Boys, and insisted that he should contradict,

upon oath, all that he had said in his information; which he refusing to do, Edward Meckam, one of the gang (whom, however, we do not find brought to punishment), cleft his skull in two with a bill-hook, and he instantly expired in the presence of the remainder of the gang. All that were apprehended were found guilty, and executed at Clonmel in 1766.

A commentator on this dreadful transaction says, 'The execution of these men probably gave rise to a report that a discovery had been made in the north of Ireland of a conspiracy dangerous to the state.

It is, indeed, true, that Sheeby's band consisted of no inconsiderable number, and was disciplined, armed, and subject to their martial law; that Bridge had been enlisted among them; and, being severely punished by one of their courts martial, informed against them in revenge, and that he lost his life by his treachery to them.

Though this might have been the fact, yet no such charge was by them laid against the Bagnalls, or the Rev. Dr. Hewitson, whom they had sworn also to murder. The merited fate of these rebels and murderers gave great satisfaction to all well-disposed Irishmen.

## ELIZABETH BURROUGHS,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

ON the trial of this woman it appeared that one Henry Steward, a broker, at Bury St. Edmunds, had taken into his house, in the capacity of servant, a girl named Mary Booty, whose father was then recently deceased, and whose goods had been sold by Steward, in the way of his business.

Elizabeth Burroughs had lived as a servant to Steward, but was not then in his employ. Finding that

Booty supplied the place that she had formerly filled, fired with jealousy (as she expressed herself), she went, for the purpose of quarrelling with her late master, to his house. For some time there was a general fray among the three; but the man, finding that Burroughs had struck Booty on the head with a hammer, quitted the house, and left the girls together.

In the course of the night Mary

Booty was found in the street, expiring before Steward's door.—Many circumstances concurred for supposing that she had been thrown out of the window by Burroughs: her skull was fractured, and she was otherwise much beaten and bruised.

Yet, under these proofs and corroborative evidence, the hardened wretch, to the last moment, asserted her innocence. Her last words were, 'I know a lie will avail me nothing; I am innocent of the murder for which I suffer.' She was executed at Bury St. Edmunds, April the 4th, 1763.

We do not know a more danger-

ous step towards the ruin of the peace of mind, in fact, eventually, of every individual of a family, than that of the master becoming familiar with his female servant. No person can read this unhappy case without entertaining the idea of an improper intercourse having taken place between Steward and Burroughs; and, though it appears she had left her ostensible employ, yet it is plain she considered the favours of her master still at her command, and that they were encroached upon by the admission of the deceased. On this point, unfortunately, we find that a grey beard does not always bring wisdom.

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### WILLIAM WHITTLE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE shocking crimes of this monster in human shape show the danger to be apprehended from religious enthusiasm.

The blood that has been shed, under the pretext of religion, in and since the Crusades, or, as they were denominated, the holy wars, is greater than the torrents shed by tyrants fighting for each other's empire.

William Whittle was a poor ignorant wretch, worked up to a state of frenzy by the abominable doctrine of some ignorant popish priest; for this wretched man was a Roman Catholic, and murdered his wife and his two children!

On being interrogated, after conviction, and while under sentence of death, as to his motive for committing such horrid deeds, he replied that his priest often told him he should be damned for marrying a heretic. 'But why murder your innocent children?' To this he answered, 'The mother had carried them to the church of the heretics: so they would have been

damned if he had not killed them; but now they were in purgatory, and would go to heaven in time.'

This wicked sinner, exulting in his fell deed, was executed on Lancaster Moor, April the 5th, 1766, and his body hung in chains.

Soon after execution, the Rev. Mr. Oliver, who held it a duty to attend the last moments of the wretched man, under the hope of working in him contrition, and a renunciation of tenets too dangerous to be implanted in weak minds, received the following threatening letter, evidently the composition of one of the same persuasion as the malefactor:—

'Sir,

'I make bold to acquaint you, that your house, and every clergyman's that's in the town (Lancaster), or any black son of a b—h like you—for you are nothing but heretics and damned souls—if William Whittle, that worthy man, hangs up ten days, you may fully expect to be blown to damnation.'



JOHN CROUCH AND WIFE,  
TRIED FOR OFFERING TO SELL A YOUNG GIRL.

THOUGH our laws punish more than one hundred and sixty offences with death, and though a statute is made against almost every species of crime, still the depravity of man is ever practising some turpitude not, perhaps, fully comprised in our penal code. A flagitious crime, for instance, of the following nature, could hardly be contemplated, in a land of liberty and affection, by any set of legislators, and punishment must consequently be resorted to from those laws against petty offences.

On the 15th of January, 1766, an elderly man and woman were observed on the Royal Exchange, London, with a fine young girl, apparently fourteen years of age, but thinly and shabbily clothed; and, consequently, shivering with cold in that inclement season of the year. So uncommon an appearance in that scene of bustle and business, it being then what is called nearly 'High 'Change,' attracted considerable attention.

It was first conceived that they were asking charity, as the man had addressed two or three gentlemen, from whom he received a contemptuous denial. At length he accosted an honest captain of a ship, who instantly gave publicity to the base proposal which had been made to him—namely, to purchase the unfortunate and innocent girl!

The parties were immediately taken into custody by the beadles

of the Exchange, and carried before the sitting magistrate at Guildhall, who committed the man and woman to prison as vagrants, and ordered the girl to be taken care of in the London Workhouse.

On their examination they persisted that the girl was their own child; but it appeared so unnatural that parents in Britain should offer for sale their offspring, that an inquiry into the transaction was set on foot.

At the general sessions of the peace, held at Guildhall, on the 12th of May following, this unnatural man and woman were brought to the bar.

It appeared that the man was named John Crouch, and that his residence was at Bodmin, in Cornwall. The woman was his wife; the unfortunate girl his niece; and having heard 'that young maidens were very scarce in London, and that they sold for a good price,' he took her out of the poor-house there, and, accompanied by his wife, had set off, and travelled on foot from Bodmin to London, two hundred and thirty-two miles, in order to mend their fortune by her sale!

The jury found the man guilty on an indictment presented against him for an offence far short of his crime; but, considering the woman under his influence, acquitted her. The husband was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Newgate, and to pay a fine of one shilling.

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WILLIAM GUEST,

EXECUTED FOR DIMINISHING THE COIN OF THE REALM.

THIS man's crime was aggravated by a breach of public trust. He was the son of a clergyman of un-

blemished character, of the city of Worcester, who placed him apprentice to a genteel business. He

passed this term of general probation to youth, the apprenticeship, to the satisfaction of his master.

He then came to London, and took a shop in Holborn, where he carried on business some years with the usual success of trade. His father's good name assisted him in procuring a clerkship in the Bank of England, and there the constant handling of gold shook his integrity.

He took a house in Broad Street Buildings, in a room in the upper part of which he used to work. Having procured a curious machine for milling guineas, not unlike that made use of by mathematical instrument makers, he used to take guineas from his drawer at the Bank, file them, and return them to the Bank, and take out guineas of full weight in their stead.

Of the filings he made ingots, which he sold to an assayer, who, on his trial, deposed that the filings were of the same standard as our guineas.

About three years before his conviction he became a teller at the Bank. Mr. Leach, who was also a teller there, observed him several times picking out new guineas from the old ones. Having some suspicion, he afterwards watched him, to discover whether this was a frequent practice; and, finding it was, he communicated his suspicion to some others.

On the 4th of July, 1766, Mr. Guest paid thirty guineas to Richard Still, a servant to Mr. Corner, a dyer, at Bankside, Southwark; and Leach observing him take some gold out of a bag in the drawer, and put it among the rest on the table, went after Still, asked him if his money was right, and begged he would walk with him into the Pay-office, and let him tell it over. The man consented. Leach found

three guineas that appeared to have been newly filed, which he took away, giving Still three guineas for them, and then carried the light guineas into the hall, and showed them to Mr. Robert Bell, another teller, who carried them to Mr. Race, the principal cashier.

Mr. Race weighed them, and found that they wanted from ten pence to about fourteen pence of weight: he then, having examined the edges, delivered them to Leach.

It is a custom at the Bank for the cashier in waiting to take the tellers' bags every night, and lock them up; and Mr. Race, after these suspicious circumstances had appeared against Guest, ordered his bags to be examined after they were taken away. This was done by Mr. Thompson, one of the under cashiers, and Kemp and Lucas, two in-door tellers, who found the whole sum they contained to be about 1,800*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* and they found in one bag forty guineas, which appeared to have been filed on the edges, and all of which were found to be deficient in weight, from eight pence to fourteen pence.

In consequence of this discovery Mr. Sewallis and Mr. Humberton, servants to the Bank, but in what capacity does not appear, went with proper officers to search Mr. Guest's house, in Broad Street Buildings. In a room up two pair of stairs there stood a mahogany nest of drawers, which being broken open, there was found a vice, files, an instrument proper for milling the edges of guineas, two bags of gold filings, and one hundred guineas. The nest of drawers had a flap before, to let down; and a skin was found lying at the bottom, fastened to the back part of the flap, with a hole in the front part, to fasten to a button on the waistcoat, in the manner used by

jewellers. In this leather lay all the utensils, a small parcel of gold dust loose, and another in a paper.

It likewise appeared on the trial that Mr. Leach had seen, in the prisoner's possession, a bar of gold, half an inch in thickness, two inches in width, and six inches long.

Mr. Troughton, a jeweller, deposed he had sold two bars of gold for the prisoner, one of which weighed forty-six and the other forty-eight ounces; but that the bars sent from foreign parts were more regularly cast than these appeared to be.

The circumstances above mentioned were deemed to adduce such evidence of guilt that the jury did not hesitate to convict Mr. Guest; the consequence of which was, that sentence of death was passed on him.

Great intercession was made to save this unhappy man, and some persons of rank were prevailed on to sign a petition in his favour; but it was determined in council that the law should take its course respecting a man whose crime was supposed to operate to the prejudice of persons of all ranks and degrees.

After conviction this malefactor made the most serious preparations for the awful change that awaited him; not flattering himself with the vain hopes of that pardon which could not in reason be expected. His attendance on the offices of de-

votion was regular, and appeared to be sincere; and he sustained his calamities with the spirit of a man and a Christian.

Consistent with the plan respecting persons convicted of high treason, he was conveyed to the place of execution on a sledge. His dress consisted of a suit of mourning and a club wig; and his behaviour was so truly penitent and contrite as to claim the general compassion of the surrounding multitude. At the place of execution he appeared to exhibit every mark of penitence and resignation. He prayed devoutly; and, when he was turned off, and his body had hung the accustomed time, it was delivered to his friends for interment. He suffered at Tyburn, October the 14th, 1767.\*

Such was the end of a man born to better hopes and fairer expectations; one who might have lived reputably on the profits of his place in the Bank, and by his other connexions; but the strength of avarice seems to have gotten the better of his more virtuous passions, and he fell a sacrifice to the wish to get rich too suddenly. He could not resist temptation, and this proved his destruction.

We fear this is but too common a case; and hence we may learn that to be contented with our several allotments in life is one of our first duties. We can no way more gratefully acknowledge our sense of the goodness of Providence than

\* The following is a singular discovery of the commission of a crime similar to that of the unfortunate Guest. John Clarke was a watch-case maker, of good repute, in London. He had long been in the habit of occasionally working by himself in a closet; and his apprentice, jealous of the master's being there employed on some work in which he would not instruct him, secretly bored a hole in the wainscot, through which he saw him filing guineas. He gave information, convicted, and brought his master to the gallows.

Clarke, for this offence, suffered at Tyburn, along with James Felton, an apprentice, on the 26th of November, 1766, who was the first offender convicted on the act which makes stealing bank-notes, &c: out of letters, a felony. It was proved that he stole a bank post-bill out of a letter at Mr. Eaton's receiving-house, in Chancery Lane.



by a thankful acceptance of its bounties, and a cheerful acquiescence in its dispensations.

Upon the whole, the case of the unfortunate Guest may serve to

teach us that honesty is the best policy, and that no real, no solid lasting gain, can result from covetousness.



*Elizabeth Brownrigg cruelly flogging her Apprentice, Mary Clifford.*

## ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG,

EXECUTED FOR TORTURING HER FEMALE APPRENTICES TO DEATH.

THE long scene of torture in which this inhuman woman kept the innocent object of her remorseless cruelty, ere she finished the long-premeditated murder, engaged the interest of the superior ranks, and roused the indignation of the populace more than any criminal occurrence in the whole course of our melancholy narratives.

This cruel woman, having passed the early part of her life in the service of private families, was married to James Brownrigg, a plumber, who, after being seven years in Greenwich, came to London, and

took a house in Flower-de-Luce Court, Fleet Street, where he carried on a considerable share of business, and had a little house at Islington for an occasional retreat.

She had been the mother of sixteen children; and, having practised midwifery, was appointed by the overseers of the poor of St. Dunstan's parish to take care of the poor women who were taken in labour in the workhouse, which duty she performed to the entire satisfaction of her employers.

Mary Mitchell, a poor girl, of the precinct of White Friars, was

put apprentice to Mrs. Brownrigg in the year 1765; and about the same time Mary Jones, one of the children of the Foundling Hospital, was likewise placed with her in the same capacity; and she had other apprentices.

As Mrs. Brownrigg received pregnant women to lie-in privately, these girls were taken with a view of saving the expense of women servants. At first the poor orphans were treated with some degree of civility; but this was soon changed for the most savage barbarity.

Having laid Mary Jones across two chairs in the kitchen, she whipped her with such wanton cruelty that she was occasionally obliged to desist through mere weariness.

This treatment was frequently repeated; and Mrs. Brownrigg used to throw water on her when she had done whipping her, and sometimes she would dip her head into a pail of water. The room appointed for the girl to sleep in adjoined the passage leading to the street door; and, as she had received many wounds on her head, shoulders, and various parts of her body, she determined not to bear such treatment any longer, if she could effect her escape.

Observing that the key was left in the street door when the family went to bed, she opened it cautiously one morning, and escaped into the street.

Thus freed from her horrid confinement, she repeatedly inquired her way to the Foundling Hospital till she found it, and was admitted after describing in what manner she had been treated, and showing the bruises she had received.

The child having been examined by a surgeon, (who found her wounds to be of a most alarming nature,) the governors of the hospital ordered Mr. Plumbtree, their

solicitor, to write to James Brownrigg, threatening a prosecution, if he did not give a proper reason for the severities exercised toward the child.

No notice of this having been taken, and the governors of the hospital thinking it imprudent to indict at common law, the girl was discharged, in consequence of an application to the chamberlain of London. The other girl, Mary Mitchell, continued with her mistress for the space of a year, during which she was treated with equal cruelty, and she also resolved to quit her service. Having escaped out of the house, she was met in the street by the younger son of Brownrigg, who forced her to return home, where her sufferings were greatly aggravated on account of her elopement. In the interim, the overseers of the precinct of White Friars bound Mary Clifford to Brownrigg; nor was it long before she experienced similar cruelties to those inflicted on the other poor girls, and possibly still more severe. She was frequently tied up naked, and beaten with a hearth-broom, a horsewhip, or a cane, till she was absolutely speechless. This poor girl having a natural infirmity, the mistress would not permit her to lie in a bed, but placed her on a mat, in a coal-hole that was remarkably cold: however, after some time, a sack and a quantity of straw formed her bed, instead of the mat. During her confinement in this wretched situation she had nothing to subsist on but bread and water; and her covering, during the night, consisted only of her own clothes, so that she sometimes lay almost perished with cold.

On a particular occasion, when she was almost starving with hunger, she broke open a cupboard in search of food, but found it empty;

and on another occasion she broke down some boards, in order to procure a draught of water.

Though she was thus pressed for the humblest necessities of life, Mrs. Brownrigg determined to punish her with rigour for the means she had taken to supply herself with them. On this she caused the girl to strip to the skin, and during the course of a whole day, while she remained naked, she repeatedly beat her with the butt-end of a whip.

In the course of this most inhuman treatment a jack-chain was fixed round her neck, the end of which was fastened to the yard door, and then it was pulled as tight as possible without strangling her.

A day being passed in the practice of these savage barbarities, the girl was remanded to the coal-hole at night, her hands being tied behind her, and the chain still remaining about her neck.

The husband having been obliged to find his wife's apprentices in wearing apparel, they were repeatedly stripped naked, and kept so for whole days, if their garments happened to be torn.

The elder son had frequently the superintendence of these wretched girls; but this was sometimes committed to the apprentice, who declared that she was totally naked one night when he went to tie her up. The two poor girls were frequently so beaten that their heads and shoulders appeared as one general sore; and, when a plaster was applied to their wounds, the skin used to peel away with it.

Sometimes Mrs. Brownrigg, when resolved on uncommon severity, used to tie their hands with a cord, and draw them up to a water-pipe which ran across the ceiling in the kitchen; but that giving way, she desired her husband to fix a

hook in the beam, through which a cord was drawn, and, their arms being extended, she used to horse-whip them till she was weary, and till the blood followed at every stroke.

The elder son having one day directed Mary Clifford to put up a half-tester bedstead, the poor girl was unable to do it; on which he beat her till she could no longer support his severity; and at another time, when the mother had been whipping her in the kitchen till she was absolutely tired, the son renewed the savage treatment. Mrs. Brownrigg would sometimes seize the poor girl by the cheeks, and, forcing the skin down violently with her fingers, cause the blood to gush from her eyes.

Mary Clifford, unable to bear these repeated severities, complained of her hard treatment to a French lady who lodged in the house; and she having represented the impropriety of such behaviour to Mrs. Brownrigg, the inhuman monster flew at the girl, and cut her tongue in two places with a pair of scissors.

On the morning of the 13th of July this barbarous woman went into the kitchen, and, after obliging Mary Clifford to strip to the skin, drew her up to the staple, and, though her body was an entire sore from former bruises, yet this wretch renewed her cruelties with her accustomed severity.

After whipping her till the blood streamed down her body, she let her down, and made her wash herself in a tub of cold water; Mary Mitchell, the other poor girl, being present during this transaction. While Clifford was washing herself Mrs. Brownrigg struck her on the shoulders, already sore with former bruises, with the butt-end of a whip; and she treated the child in



this manner five times in the same day.

The poor girl's wounds now began to show evident signs of mortification. Her mother-in-law, who had resided some time in the country, came about this time to town, and inquired after her. Being informed that she was placed at Brownrigg's, she went thither, but was refused admittance by Mr. Brownrigg, who even threatened to carry her before the lord mayor if she came there to make further disturbances. Upon this the mother-in-law was going away, when Mrs. Deacon, wife of Mr. Deacon, baker, at the adjoining house, called her in, and informed her that she and her family had often heard moanings and groans issue from Brownrigg's house, and that she suspected the apprentices were treated with unwarrantable severity. This good woman likewise promised to exert herself to ascertain the truth.

At this juncture Mr. Brownrigg, going to Hampstead on business, bought a hog, which he sent home. The hog was put into a covered yard, having a sky-light, which it was thought necessary to remove, in order to give air to the animal.

As soon as it was known that the sky-light was removed, Mr. Deacon ordered his servants to watch, in order, if possible, to discover the girls. Accordingly, one of the maids, looking from a window, saw one of the girls stooping down, on which she called her mistress, and she desired the attendance of some of the neighbours, who having been witnesses of the shocking scene, some men got upon the leads, and dropped bits of dirt, in order to induce the girl to speak to them; but she seemed wholly incapable. Mrs. Deacon then sent to the girl's mother-in-law, who immediately called

upon Mr. Grundy, one of the overseers of St. Dunstan's, and represented the case. Mr. Grundy and the rest of the overseers, with the women, went and demanded a sight of Mary Clifford; but Brownrigg, who had nicknamed her Nan, told them that he knew no such person; but, if they wanted to see Mary (meaning Mary Mitchell), they might, and accordingly produced her. Upon this Mr. Deacon's servant declared that Mary Mitchell was not the girl they wanted. Mr. Grundy now sent for a constable, to search the house, but no discovery was then made.

Mr. Brownrigg threatened highly; but Mr. Grundy, with the spirit that became the officer of a parish, took Mary Mitchell with him to the workhouse, where, on the taking off her leathern boddice, it stuck so fast to her wounds that she shrieked with the pain; but, on being treated with great humanity, and told that she should not be sent back to Brownrigg's, she gave an account of the horrid treatment that she and Mary Clifford had sustained, and confessed that she had met the latter on the stairs just before they came to the house. Upon this information Mr. Grundy and some others returned to the house, to make a stricter search; on which Brownrigg sent for a lawyer, in order to intimidate them, and even threatened a prosecution unless they immediately quitted the premises. Unterrified by these threats, Mr. Grundy sent for a coach, to carry Brownrigg to the Compter; on which the latter promised to produce the girl in about half an hour, if the coach was discharged. This being consented to, the girl was produced from a cupboard under a beaufet in the dining-room, after a pair of shoes, which young Brownrigg had in his hand during

the proposal, had been put upon her. It is not in language to describe the miserable appearance this poor girl made; almost her whole body was ulcerated.

Being taken to the workhouse, an apothecary was sent for, who pronounced her to be in danger.

Brownrigg was therefore conveyed to Wood Street Compter; but his wife and son made their escape, taking with them a gold watch and some money. Mr. Brownrigg was now carried before Alderman Crossby, who fully committed him, and ordered the girls to be taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where Mary Clifford died within a few days; and the coroner's inquest, being summoned, found a verdict of Wilful Murder against James and Elizabeth Brownrigg, and John their son.

In the mean time Mrs. Brownrigg and her son shifted from place to place in London, bought clothes in Rag Fair to disguise themselves, and then went to Wandsworth, where they took lodgings in the house of Mr. Dunbar, who kept a chandler's shop.

This chandler, happening to read a newspaper on the 15th of August, saw an advertisement, which so clearly described his lodgers, that he had no doubt but they were the murderers.

On this he went to London the next day, which was Sunday, and, going to church, sent for Mr. Owen, the churchwarden, to attend him in the vestry, and gave him such a description of the parties that Mr. Owen desired Mr. Deacon and Mr. Wingrave, a constable, to go to Wandsworth, and make the necessary inquiry.

On their arrival at Dunbar's house, they found the wretched mother and son in a room by themselves, who evinced great agitation at this discovery. A coach being procured, they were conveyed to London, without any person in Wandsworth having knowledge of the affair, except Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, the father, mother, and son, were indicted; when Elizabeth Brownrigg, after a trial of eleven hours, was found guilty of murder, and ordered for execution; but the man and his son, being acquitted of the higher charge\*, were detained, to take their trials for a misdemeanor, of which they were convicted, and imprisoned for the space of six months.

After sentence of death was passed on Mrs. Brownrigg she was attended by a clergyman, to whom she confessed the enormity of her crime, and acknowledged the justice of the sentence by which she had been condemned. The parting between her and her husband and son, on the morning of her execution, was affecting beyond description. The son falling on his knees, she bent herself over him and embraced him; while the husband was kneeling on the other side.

On her way to the fatal tree the people expressed their abhorrence of her crime in terms which, though not proper at the moment, testified their detestation of her cruelty. Before her exit, she joined in prayer with the Ordinary of Newgate, whom she desired to declare to the multitude that she confessed her guilt, and acknowledged the justice of her sentence.

\* It seems the child was looked upon as the apprentice of the wife, and not the husband; though the husband was obliged to find her apparel: however, accessories in murder are equally guilty, and it is strange that the man and his son should have been acquitted.

After her execution, which took place at Tyburn, September the 14th, 1767, her body was put into a hackney-coach, and conveyed to Surgeons' Hall, where it was dissected, and her skeleton hung up.

That Mrs. Brownrigg, a midwife by profession, and herself the mother of many children, should wantonly murder the offspring of other women, is truly astonishing, and can only be accounted for by that depravity of human nature which philosophers have always disputed,

but which true Christians will be ready to allow.

Let her crimes be buried, though her skeleton be exposed; and may no one hereafter be found wicked enough to copy her vile example!

Women who have the care of children from parish workhouses or hospitals should consider themselves at once as mistresses and as mothers; nor ever permit the strictness of the former character to preponderate over the humanity of the latter.

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### JOHN WILLIAMSON, EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

WILLIAMSON was the son of people in but indifferent circumstances; who put him apprentice to a shoemaker. When he came to be a journeyman he pursued his business with industry; and in a short time he married an honest and sober woman, by whom he had three children. His wife dying, he continued some time a widower, maintaining himself and his children in a decent manner.

At length he contracted acquaintance with a young woman so deficient in point of intellect, that it may be said she bordered upon idiotism.

Her relations had bequeathed her money sufficient for her maintenance; and this circumstance induced Williamson to make proposals of marriage, which she accepted.

Being asked in church, the bans were forbidden by the gentleman appointed guardian to the unhappy woman.

Williamson having procured a licence, the marriage was solemnized; and in consequence he received the money that was in the hands of the guardian.

About three weeks after the marriage he cruelly beat his wife, threw water over her, and otherwise treated her with great severity; and this kind of brutality he frequently repeated.

At length he fastened the miserable creature's hands behind her with handcuffs; and, by means of a rope passed through a staple, drew them so tight above her head, that only the tips of her toes touched the ground.

On one side of the closet wherein she was confined was now and then put a small piece of bread and butter, so that she could just touch it with her mouth; and she was daily allowed a small portion of water.

She once remained a whole month without being released from this miserable condition; but during that time she occasionally received assistance from a female lodger in the house, and a little girl, Williamson's daughter by his former wife.

The girl having once released the poor sufferer, the inhuman villain beat her with great severity. When the father was abroad, the child frequently gave the unhappy woman



a stool to stand upon, by which means her pain was in some degree abated.

This circumstance being discovered by Williamson, he beat the girl in a most barbarous manner, and threatened that, if she again offended in the same way, he would punish her with still greater severity.

Williamson released his wife on the Sunday preceding the day on which she died; and at dinner-time cut her some meat, of which, however, she ate only a very small quantity. This partial indulgence he supposed would prove a favorable circumstance for him in case of being accused of murder.

Her hands being greatly swelled, through the coldness of the weather and the pain occasioned by the handcuffs, she begged to be permitted to go near the fire; and, the daughter joining in her request, Williamson complied. When she had sat a few minutes, Williamson, observing her throwing the vermin that swarmed upon her clothes into the fire, ordered her to 'return to her kennel.' Hereupon she went back to the closet, the door of which was then locked till the next day, when she was found to be in a delirious state, in which she continued till the time of her death, which happened about two o'clock on the Tuesday morning.

The coroner's jury being summoned to sit on the body, Mr. Barton, a surgeon, of Redcross Street, who had opened it, declared that he was of opinion the deceased had perished through the want of the common necessities of life; and, other evidence being adduced to criminate Williamson, he was committed to Newgate.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey he was brought to trial before Lord Chief Baron Parker:

and the principal witnesses against him were his daughter, Mrs. Cole, and Mr. Barton, the surgeon who opened the body of the deceased.

The prisoner's defence was exceedingly frivolous: he said his wife had provoked him by treading upon a kitten, and killing it, and then turning up the whites of her eyes.

It appeared that, from the sense of excruciating pain, the eyes of the deceased were frequently turned upwards, and her features violently distorted. He had the effrontery to declare to the Court that he had not abridged his wife of any of the necessities of life; and, after sentence of death was pronounced, reflected upon his daughter as being the cause of his destruction.

While the child was giving her evidence she wept bitterly, and showed every sign of being greatly affected.

Being put into the cells, he sent for a clergyman, and acknowledged that he had treated his wife in the cruel manner represented upon the trial; adding, however, that he had no design of depriving her of life.

From the time of his commitment to prison till the time of his execution he behaved in a very decent and penitent manner.

He was conveyed to the place of execution in a cart, attended by two church clergymen and a methodist preacher.

The gallows was placed on the rising ground opposite Chiswell Street, in Moorfields. After he had sung a psalm, and prayed some time with an appearance of great devotion, he was turned off, January 19, 1767, amidst an amazing concourse of people.

His body was conveyed to Surgeon's Hall for dissection, and his children were placed in Cripplegate workhouse.

It appeared that several women in the neighbourhood knew of Williamson's barbarity; and it is to be regretted that they did not know, or, at least, refused to do, their

duty; for, had they given information to a magistrate, in all probability two lives would have been saved—one from starvation, and the other from ignominy.

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### JOHN YOUNG, IMPRISONED FOR CRIMPING.

THE system of crimping or kidnapping young men for the army is a disgrace to a free country, yet it was long carried on, and generally with impunity, in London.

Among the numerous classes of villains who prowl the streets and environs of the metropolis, watching an opportunity to plunder, are a number of ruffians, with party-coloured cockades in their hats, calling themselves recruiting officers, watching country and unguarded youths, whom they decoy into publichouses, which they have in all quarters of the town: there they ply them with drink, and raise their hopes to enthusiasm by the description of the vast riches of the East, until they get them sworn in, as it is called; after which seldom any thing more is heard of the wretched dupes. They are hurried on board a ship, confined in a filthy hold on scanty provisions, and sent to some unfriendly clime, which generally soon puts an end to their miseries.

John Young was one of these mock captains. He had trepanned Henry Soppet, an honest sailor, while intoxicated, and confined him in a sponging or lock-up house in Chancery Lane, with a design to send him to the East Indies.

When sober, Jack, however, made such an uproar, that the captain was fain to let go his supposed prize. It did not rest here, for the tar instantly steered to the lord mayor, and tendered his complaint, in consequence of which the man-

stealer was soon apprehended, and brought to trial for the offence at the sessions at Guildhall, on the 27th of April, 1767, and found guilty.

It is singular that the British laws, the most comprehensive of all codes, have provided no adequate punishment for 'a man stealing a man;' for, in fact, what else is this kind of kidnapping?

In America it is death to steal a negro slave; but, in England, the same offence committed upon a white free man is merely punishable by fine or imprisonment.

The crimp, or man-stealer, Young, pleaded guilty, and endeavored to cozen, the Court, by a mock puritanical whine of contrition, into mercy; but he soon found that he could not trick the city magistrates, who ordered him to be imprisoned in Newgate twelve months, and, at the expiration of that time, to give security for his good behaviour for two years more, himself in one hundred pounds, and two sureties in fifty pounds each.

There was, along with Young, another of the crimping gang, named Edward Fielding, brought up to receive sentence. This villain, in order to force one of his victims to enlist for the East India Company's service, charged the innocent young fellow with a robbery; but the scheme was detected, and Captain Fielding received the same sentence as his infamous coadjutor.

Just as sentence was pronounced on this brace of bullies, an over-drove ox entered Guildhall, and ran into Court, to the great astonishment of judges, counsel, jury, witnesses, and the condemned crimps; but, it is supposed, not approving of his company, he turned about, and peaceably departed, without doing any other mischief than causing the effects of

terror, in a very considerable degree, in the whole Court.

A gentleman passing by at the time, and seeing a crowd, asked the cause. 'Nothing,' replied a fellow, humorously, 'but an ox that just ran into Guildhall, in a passion, to lay a complaint before my lord mayor of the inhumanity of his drivers.'

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### SAMUEL ORTON,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

SAMUEL ORTON was a native of London. While he was in a state of infancy his father died, leaving Mrs. Orton in possession of a handsome fortune. She was a Protestant dissenter, and placed her son under the care of a dissenting minister, at whose academy he made some progress in several branches of learning.

The young man discovered a very strong inclination for trade; and he was therefore apprenticed to a reputable dealer in London, to whom he proved a faithful and industrious servant. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he purchased the place of clerk to the Court of Requests in the borough of Southwark, which produced an income of about three hundred pounds a year.

He soon afterwards embarked in the wine trade, which he successfully pursued some years; and, being generally considered as a man of large property, many persons, who supported their credit by the circulation of notes of hand and bills of exchange, applied for his indorsements, knowing that his name would give their paper currency; and he was so imprudent as to make himself liable to the payment of fourteen hundred pounds.

The persons with whom Mr. Orton had engaged in such imprudent connexions being declared bankrupts, he became answerable to the holders of the notes. Having debts of his own to the amount of nine hundred pounds, and the notes for fourteen hundred to discharge within a fortnight, he formed the resolution of committing forgery.

A friendship had long subsisted between Mr. Orton and a captain, who, upon leaving England, had intrusted him with a letter of attorney, authorizing him to receive his pay and dividend of Bank stock.

He forged two letters of attorney, by means of which he received a thousand pounds at the Bank. It must be observed that his intention was not ultimately to defraud the captain, but merely to support his credit till remittances from his correspondents should enable him to replace the money; and he flattered himself in the opinion that if, through disappointments, he should be unable to restore the property before the captain's return, he would readily excuse his conduct.

Captain Bishop, being at Portsmouth in August, 1766, wrote to Mr. Orton, mentioning that his ship was coming round to Wool-



wich, and that he was desirous of an interview as soon as possible after his arrival. He wrote the captain word that he would certainly meet him at Woolwich; and, having some business to negotiate at Yarmouth, he set out on horse-back for that place.

On his return to London he left his horse at an inn near Charing Cross, and went into St. James's Park, where he accidentally met Captain Bishop, whose ship had arrived at Woolwich on the preceding day. They supped together at the Belle Sauvage, on Ludgate Hill; and the next day Mr. Orton dined with the captain on board his ship at Woolwich.

Before leaving Woolwich, Mr. Orton intended to inform the captain of his conduct with regard to the money he had received at the Bank; but he declined introducing the subject upon learning that the captain meant to remain at Woolwich till his ship was cleared, which he expected would not be in less than a week.

Mr. Orton now went a second time to Yarmouth, and, on his return in four days, he found a letter at his house from Captain Bishop, signifying that, having received his pay, he had more money by him than he had occasion for, and therefore desired Mr. Orton to meet him at the Belle Sauvage, and receive a sum in order to dispose of it in such a manner as he should judge would prove most advantageous. They met according to appointment, and Mr. Orton was about to mention the forged letters of attorney, when the captain said he was under the necessity of immediately attending Admiral Knowles: and they parted with every appearance of friendship, mutually promising to meet the following evening.

The next night he had not been in the house where he had appointed to meet Captain Bishop more than half an hour, when he was arrested for two hundred pounds at the suit of the captain, and immediately conducted to a sponging-house. He was the next day examined in the presence of some of the directors of the Bank, and committed to Newgate in order for trial.

The violent agitation of spirits which this unfortunate man experienced when he was charged with the commission of forgery will not admit of description. Being brought to trial, his guilt was proved by indisputable evidence; and he was sentenced to be executed.

While he remained in Newgate his behaviour was perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances. He was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning-coach; and, after he had employed some time in devout prayer, the sentence of the law was put in force, and his body was delivered to his friends.

Samuel Orton was executed at Tyburn on the 14th of January, 1767.

We cannot but regret the fate of this unfortunate man, because it is certain that he was not influenced by wicked motives to the commission of the fact for which he forfeited his life; but we must, however, acknowledge that he fell a just victim to the offended laws, which are not to be relaxed in favour of individuals, however amiable their private characters, lest their authority should be impaired.

Forgery is so dangerous in its tendency, and extensive in its consequences, that, even in cases where no actual injury is sustained, political reasons point out the neces-

sity of inflicting a severity of punishment upon those who are guilty of so atrocious a crime.

Since a disgraceful death will be

the almost inevitable consequence, let our readers be warned against having recourse to so desperate an expedient.

## JOHN POWER, OTHERWISE WINN,

EXECUTED FOR PIRACY AND MURDER.

This malefactor was a native of the West of England, and very early engaged in a seafaring life, serving on board a ship which sailed to the coast of Guinea on the slave-trade.\*

Captain Fox had the command of the vessel, and, while he was on shore on the African coast, Power and several other seamen determined to seize the ship, and to take her to sea on their own account.

This resolution being formed, they swore fidelity to each other; and, giving the name of 'Bravo' to the ship (which had been called the Polly), they sailed for the West Indies, the command being given to Power, who now assumed the title of captain.

The mate of the ship exerted his utmost influence to prevail on Power to let the real captain come on board before he sailed, and to return to his own duty; but all the return that the mate experienced for this good advice was the ball of a pistol lodged in his shoulder: Power likewise discharged a ball through the cheek of a sailor, and wounded a second who refused to submit to his imperious commands.

Thus by violence becoming master of the vessel, he proceeded on his voyage with a lading of negro slaves; but among the other parties on board was a free negro, who had remained as a hostage for two

of his countrymen; and this man was employed in splitting wood for firing.

This free negro frequently conversing with the slaves, the pirates conceived that they were concerting plans to regain their liberty; for guilt is ever suspicious.

One Robert Fitzgerald, an Irishman, was the first who observed the free negro talking to the slaves; and hinting his suspicions to Power, and telling him to be on his guard, the latter, who was a fellow of the most unfeeling disposition, caused the poor man to be tied to the side of the ship, where he whipped him some minutes with a cat-o'-nine-tails with such severity, that his body streamed with blood, and his bones in some places were visible.

After this severe chastisement for no real offence Power took a cutlass from the hands of one of the sailors; but, not thinking it sharp enough to answer his horrid purpose, he directed that another should be brought him, with which he cut the poor negro in several places. Not contented with exercising this unprovoked severity, he directed Fitzgerald to cut him again, and the barbarous villain even exceeded his commission. Another of the sailors, named Potts, likewise cut him in two or three places; and at length Fitzgerald completed the murder by cutting off his head, and throwing that,

\* This trade, of all others, is the most obnoxious to the feelings of humanity, the most contrary to the doctrines of Christianity; and it is astonishing that any man can call himself a Christian, yet professedly barter away the lives and liberties of his fellow-creatures!

with the body, into the sea; though he had no order from Power for carrying the affair to such extremity.

The horrid murder being thus committed, they continued their voyage for the West Indies, where they offered the negro slaves to sale; but, a suspicion arising of some illicit practices, they thought it prudent to depart; and, steering their course for North America, they came to anchor in the harbour of New York, where most of them thought it prudent to consult their safety in flight; but the surgeon of the ship (who had been obliged to dissemble his inclinations, to save his life) gave information against the murderers, some of whom were taken into custody.

Fitzgerald had made his escape; but Power, and a seaman named Tomlin, were sent to England, where they were brought to trial; when the latter was acquitted from a variety of circumstances that arose in exculpation of his crime; but Power, being convicted on the fullest evidence, was sentenced to death for the murder of the negro.

After conviction his behaviour was such as might have been expected from so hardened a wretch, —one who seemed to defy the laws of God and man, to be a wilful, a deliberate, murderer.

This malefactor was hanged at Execution Dock on the 10th of March, 1768.

After the various and repeated remarks we have made on the crimes of murder and piracy, nothing remains to be said on the present occasion but to reprobate in the severest manner the practice of engaging in the slave-trade. If a man possessed those generous feelings by which our nature is said to be distinguished, he could not be induced to engage in this infernal traffic; or, if he did engage in it, it is impossible but that his feelings must be called forth, and he would see that his life was little less than continued murder.

We are convinced that it may be, because it has been, argued, that the petty princes of Africa make a practice of selling as slaves such of their countrymen as they have obtained possession of by right of conquest: but shall this be an argument of any weight in a humane, in a Christian breast? Forbid it honour! forbid it that genuine philanthropy which claims the first possession of our hearts, and gives us a distinction from the beasts that perish!

It is not reasonable to suppose that God has made any distinction between his creatures: why then should that distinction be made by man—vain, presumptuous, man?—too fond of arrogating to himself something more than the attribute of the Deity!

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### SARAH METYARD AND SARAH MORGAN METYARD, EXECUTED FOR THE MURDERS OF PARISH APPRENTICES.

A SINGLE year had not elapsed since the public example made of Elizabeth Brownrigg, and to which the public indignation was yet alive, when these two, if possible, more cruel women, were torturing their apprentices to death.

Sarah was a milliner, and the

daughter her assistant, in Bruton Street, Hanover Square, London.

In the year 1758 the mother had five apprentice girls bound to her from different parish workhouses, among whom were Anne Naylor and her sister.

Anne Naylor, being of a sickly



constitution, was not able to do so much work as the other apprentices about the same age; and therefore she became the more immediate object of the fury of the barbarous women, whose repeated acts of cruelty at length occasioned the unhappy girl to abscond. Being brought back, she was confined in an upper apartment, and allowed each day no other sustenance than a small piece of bread and a little water.

Seizing an opportunity of escaping from her confinement, she got unperceived into the street, and ran to a milk-carrier, whom she begged to protect her, saying, if she returned, she must certainly perish, through the want of food, and severe treatment she daily received. Being soon missed, she was followed by the younger Met-yard, who, seizing her by the neck, forced her into the house, and threw her upon the bed in the room where she had been confined; and she was then seized by the old woman, who held her down while the daughter beat her with the handle of a broom in a most cruel manner. They afterwards put her into a back room on the second story, tying a cord round her waist, and her hands behind her, and fastening her to the door in such a manner that it was impossible for her either to sit or lay down. She was compelled to remain in this situation for three successive days; but they permitted her to go to bed at the usual hours at night. Having received no kind of nutriment for three days and two nights, her strength was so exhausted, that, being unable to walk up stairs, she crept to the garret, where she lay, on her hands and feet.

While she remained tied up on the second floor the other apprentices were ordered to work in an

adjoining apartment, that they might be deterred from disobedience by being witnesses to the unhappy girl's sufferings; but they were enjoined, on the penalty of being subjected to equal severity, against affording her any kind of relief.

On the fourth day she faltered in speech, and presently afterwards expired. The other girls, seeing the whole weight of her body supported by the strings which confined her to the door, were greatly alarmed, and called out, 'Miss Sally! Miss Sally! Nanny does not move.' The daughter now came up stairs, saying, 'If she does not move, I will make her move;' and then beat the deceased on the head with the heel of a shoe.

Perceiving no signs of life, she called to her mother, who came up stairs, and, having ordered the strings that confined the deceased to be cut, laid the body across her lap, and directed one of the apprentices where to find a bottle with some hartshorn drops.

When the child had brought the drops, she and the other girls were ordered to go down stairs; and the mother and daughter, being convinced that the object of their barbarity was dead, conveyed the body into the garret. They related to the other apprentices that Nanny had been in a fit, but was perfectly recovered, adding, that she was locked into the garret lest she should again run away; and, in order to give an air of plausibility to their tale, at noon the daughter carried a plate of meat up stairs, saying it was for Nanny's dinner.

They locked the body of the deceased in a box on the fourth day after the murder; and, having left the garret door open, and the street door on the jar, one of the apprentices was told to call Nanny

down to dinner, and to tell her that, if she would promise to behave well in future, she would be no longer confined. Upon the return of the child she said Nanny was not above stairs; and, after a great parade in searching every part of the house, they reflected upon her as being of an untractable disposition, and pretended that she had ran away.

The sister of the deceased, who was apprenticed to the same inhuman mistress, mentioned to a lodger in the house that she was persuaded her sister was dead; observing that it was not probable she had gone away, since her shoes, shift, and other parts of her apparel, still remained in the garret.

The suspicions of this girl coming to the knowledge of the inhuman wretches, they, with a view of preventing a discovery, cruelly murdered her, and secreted the body.

The body of Anne remained in the box two months, during which time the garret door was kept locked, lest the offensive smell should lead to a discovery. The stench became so powerful that they judged it prudent to remove the remains of the unhappy victim of their barbarity; and, therefore, in the evening of the 25th of December, they cut the body in pieces, and tied the head and trunk up in one cloth, and the limbs in another, excepting one hand, a finger belonging to which had been amputated before death, and that they resolved to burn.

When the apprentices were gone to bed the old woman put the hand into the fire, saying 'The fire tells no tales.' She intended entirely to consume the remains of the unfortunate girl by fire; but, fearing the smell would give rise to suspicion, changed that design, and

taking the bundles to the gully-hole in Chick Lane, endeavored to throw the parts of the mangled corpse over the wall into the common sewer; but, being unable to effect that, she left them among the mud and water that was collected before the grate of the sewer.

Some pieces of the body being discovered about twelve o'clock by the watchman, he mentioned the circumstance to the constable of the night. The constable applied to one of the overseers of the parish, by whose direction the parts of the body were collected, and taken to the watch-house. On the following day the matter was communicated to Mr. Umfreville, the coroner, who examined the pieces found by the watchman; but, supposing them to be parts of a corpse taken from a churchyard for the use of some surgeon, he declined summoning a jury.

Four years elapsed before the discovery of these horrid murders, which at length happened in the following manner:—Continual disagreements prevailed between the mother and daughter; and, though the latter was now arrived at the age of maturity, she was often beat; and otherwise treated with severity. Thus provoked, she sometimes threatened to destroy herself, and at others to give information against her mother as a murderer.

About two years after the murders a gentleman of the name of Rooker took lodgings in the house of Metyard, where he lived about three months, during which time he had frequent opportunities of observing the severity with which the girl was treated.

He hired a house in Hill Street, and, influenced by compassion for her sufferings, and desirous of relieving her from the tyranny of her

mother, he invited the girl to live in his family in the capacity of a servant; which offer she cheerfully embraced, though her mother had many times violently opposed her desire of going to service.

The girl had no sooner removed to Mr. Rooker's house than the old woman became perfectly outrageous; and it was almost her constant daily practice to create disturbances in Mr. Rooker's neighbourhood, by venting the most bitter execrations against the girl, and branding her with the most opprobrious epithets.

Mr. Rooker removed to Ealing, to reside on a little estate bequeathed him by a relation; and, having by this time seduced the girl, she accompanied him, and lived with him professedly in the character of his mistress.

The old woman's visits were not less frequent at Ealing than they had been at Mr. Rooker's house in London; nor was her behaviour less outrageous. At length Mr. Rooker permitted her to be admitted into the house, imagining that such indulgence would induce her to preserve a decency of behaviour; but he was disappointed, for she still continued to disturb the peace of his family.

On the 9th of June, 1762, she beat her daughter in a terrible manner; and during the contention many expressions were uttered by both parties that gave great uneasiness to Mr. Rooker. The mother called Mr. Rooker 'the old perfumed tea dog;' and the girl retorted by saying, 'Remember, mother, you are the perfumer; you are the Chick Lane ghost,' alluding to the body of Anne Naylor having been kept in the box till it became intolerably offensive, and then thrown among the mud and water in Chick Lane.

The mother having retired, Mr. Rooker urged the girl to explain what was meant to be insinuated by the indirect accusations introduced by both parties in the course of the dispute; and, bursting into tears, she confessed the particulars of the murders, begging that a secret so materially affecting her mother might never be divulged.

Mr. Rooker imagined that the daughter could not be rendered amenable to the law, as she performed her share in the murders by the direction of her mother; but we pretend not to say that he would have suppressed the discovery, had he supposed that making the horrid transaction public would have endangered the girl's life. Mr. Rooker wrote concerning the affair to the overseers of Tottenham parish, whence the girls were put out apprentice; in consequence of which the elder Metyard was taken into custody.

On the day of the examination Mr. Rooker, the younger Metyard, and two children, apprentices in the house when the murders were committed, attended at Sir John Fielding's house in Bow Street. The evidence against the prisoner left no doubt of her guilt, and she was committed to New Prison, Clerkenwell, for re-examination; and the girls were put under the protection of the overseers of St. George's, Hanover Square.

Upon the prisoner being examined a second time she was remanded for trial; and, some circumstances having arisen to criminate the daughter, she was ordered to stand at the bar; and, the evidence against her being recapitulated on oath, she was committed to the Gate House.

On the trials of these offenders, which came on at the ensuing Old Bailey Sessions, they bitterly re-



criminated each other, and their mutual accusations served to confirm the evidence of their guilt. The younger Metyard pleaded pregnancy; on which a jury of matrons was summoned, who pronounced that she was not with child; after which they were both sentenced to be executed on the following Monday, and then to be conveyed to Surgeons' Hall for dissection.

The mother being in a fit when she was put into the cart, she lay at her length till she came to the place of execution, when she was raised up, and means were used for her recovery, but without effect, so that she departed this life in a state of insensibility. From the time of

leaving Newgate to the moment of her death the daughter wept incessantly. It is true she joined the Ordinary in prayer; but such was the distracted state of her mind, that there is but too much reason to fear that she died without that sincere repentance which alone can avert the terrible decree denounced against those who impiously arrogate to themselves the power of the Almighty, and imbrue their hands in the blood of innocence. They were executed at Tyburn July the 19th, 1768. After hanging the usual time the bodies were conveyed in a hearse to Surgeons' Hall, where they were exposed to the curiosity of the public, and then dissected.

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### JOHN M'CLOUD,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. STODDARD.

THOUGH the crime for which this unfortunate youth justly suffered was of the deepest dye, yet his execution excited much commiseration.

He was not twenty years of age when he met his untimely and ignominious death, and was apprentice to a glazier; but he gave way to that fatal habit to all apprentices of attending public houses when his master's business was done for the day; when evil examples soon caused him to throw off almost all restraint, and he was frequently seen intoxicated when he should have been at work.

This kind of life, every one knows, is supported at no little cost; and the lost youth is soon driven to some dishonest practice, in order, for a short time, to keep up the enticing, but fatal, career he has begun.

Their first plunder is too often upon their masters, because it is done with less danger, and frequently without mistrust.

M'Cloud chose the highway for this purpose; and, accompanied by another stripling, who escaped justice, on the 15th of October, 1758, sallied out, armed with knives and bludgeons, on the road leading to Islington.

The first unhappy passenger whom they met was Mr. Stoddard, keeper of Clerkenwell Bridewell, returning to the prison from Islington—a man of resolution, and the keeper of robbers.

He resisted their attack, and would have secured them both, had they not drawn their knives, and stabbed him many times, when he fell, and the villains ran off, after rifling his pockets.

The unfortunate man died of his wounds on the 18th.

M'Cloud alone was apprehended, and, untaught in villainy, confessed his crime; that it was his first attempt to do a dishonest act; and that the murder was involuntary, for that neither his companion nor himself had any such intent. He

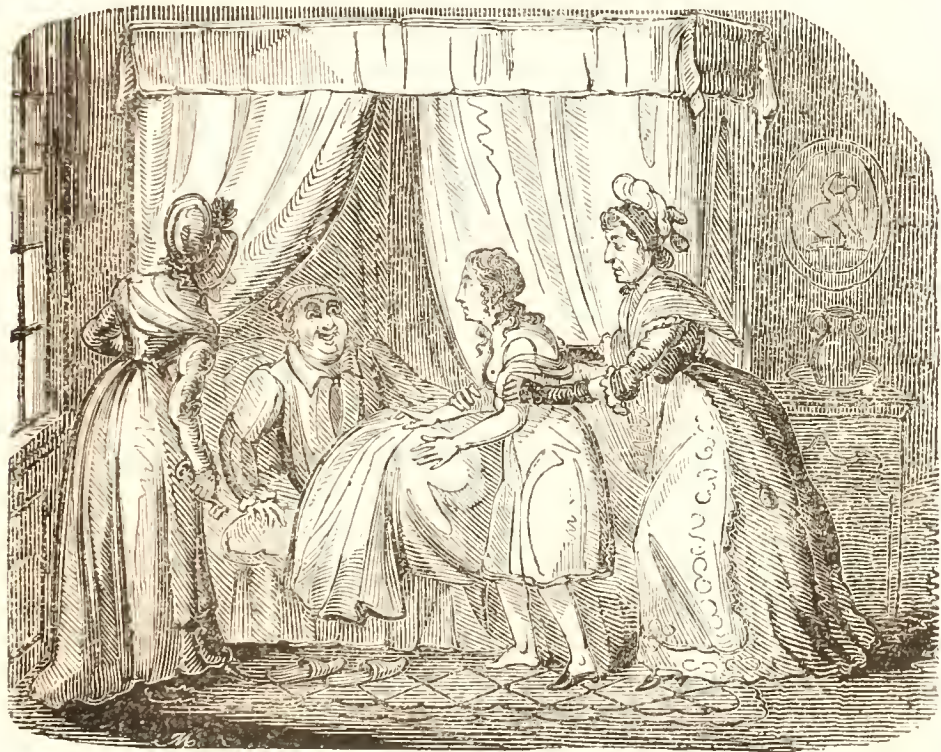
further said, that he could not say which of them gave the death-wound; but that, finding himself pressed, he drew his knife in his own defence.

When brought to the bar of the Old Bailey, it was remarked that so open and honest a countenance had not often been arraigned there; and his behaviour coincided with his appearance; but what can all this avail in purging so foul a deed?

He was condemned to be hanged, and his body to be delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

At the fatal tree he bitterly lamented his folly, and earnestly exhorted all his fellow-apprentices against neglecting their master's employ, which he said would, sooner or later, bring them to an untimely end.

He was executed at Tyburn October the 24th, 1768.



*Sarah Woodcock forcibly introduced to Lord Baltimore.*

### FREDERIC LORD BALTIMORE, ELIZABETH GRIF- FENBURG, AND ANNE HARVEY,

THE FORMER TRIED FOR COMMITTING A RAPE ON SARAH WOODCOCK, AND  
THE TWO LATTER AS ACCESSORIES BEFORE THE FACT.

THOUGH conviction did not follow the trials of these presumed offenders, it is our duty to state the affair as it was transmitted to the public at the time.

Frederic Lord Baltimore was the lineal descendant of Mr. Cal-

vert, who was promoted to the degree of a peer of Ireland by King James I. from whom he received the grant of an immense tract of land in America, which has since borne the name of Maryland.

Lord Baltimore's father had a



country seat at Epsom, where the object of our present notice was born, and sent for education to Eton School, where he became a great proficient in classical knowledge, and was said to have a singular taste and capacity for the learning and manners of the ancients; and his father dying before he was of age, left him in possession of a most ample fortune.

His lordship married the daughter of the Duke of Bridgewater, but was exceedingly unhappy in the nuptial connexion, owing to his unbounded attachment to women. In fact, his passion for the sex was so illiberal and so gross, that his house had the appearance of a Turkish seraglio rather than that of an Englishman of fortune; nor was it reputable for any woman of character to have entered within his walls.

Lord Baltimore, during his residence abroad, sailed from Naples to Constantinople, where he saw and admired the customs of the Turks; and on his return to England, in 1766, he caused a part of his house to be taken down, and rebuilt in the form of a Turkish harem. He kept a number of women, who had rules given them by which to regulate their conduct; and he had agents, to procure him fresh faces, in different parts of the town.

Elizabeth Griffenburgh, wife of Dr. Griffenburgh, a native of Germany, and Anne Harvey, a woman of low education, were two of the parties employed by Lord Baltimore in his irregular designs on the sex.

In November, 1767, Mrs. Harvey told his lordship that a young lady named Woodcock, who was very handsome, kept a milliner's shop on Tower Hill. Prompted by curiosity, and a still more ig-

noble motive, Lord Baltimore went once or twice to the shop, and purchased some trifling articles, by way of making an acquaintance. He then asked her if she would attend him to the play; but this she declined, having never been at a play in her life; and, as she had been bred up among that rigid sect of dissenters called Independents, she had been taught to consider theatrical diversions as incompatible with the duties of Christianity.

Some time afterwards Lord Baltimore went hastily into Miss Woodcock's shop, saying that he had been splashed by mud from a hackney-coach. This was noticed by the young lady, who expressed her surprise that he could be so near the coach as to see, but not avoid it. He answered, 'I was thinking of you, Miss;' but she paid no regard to this compliment, as she considered him as a neighbour, and a married man.

At length Lord Baltimore and his agents had completed the outlines of the ungenerous plan which they had determined, if possible, to carry into execution. Mrs. Harvey, going to Miss Woodcock's shop on the 14th of December, bespoke a pair of laced ruffles, which she desired might be made up against the next day, for the use of a lady, who might be a good customer if she was not disappointed, as she was fond of encouraging persons who were young in trade.

On the following day Mrs. Harvey called and paid for the ruffles, and, having given orders for some other articles, desired that they might be brought to her house in the Curtain Road, near Holywell Mount, Shoreditch, on the succeeding day.

At the time appointed Miss Woodcock went to the house, where Mrs. Harvey received her



politely, and desired her to drink tea; but as the days were short, and as she had no friend to attend her, she expressed her wish to decline the invitation. During their conversation one Isaac Isaacs, a Jew, came into the house, and, having paid his respects to Mrs. Harvey, said he was going to the play. Hereupon Mrs. Harvey said 'I was going to attend a lady with some millinery goods;' and then to Isaacs, 'This is the lady I was speaking to you of;' then again to Miss Woodcock, 'I would be glad you would go with me; the lady wants a great many things, and will be a very good customer to you.'

Isaacs now observed, that, as it was necessary for him to have a coach, he could set them both down at the lady's house. This was objected to by Miss Woodcock, on account of her dress; but this objection was overruled by Mrs. Harvey, who said that circumstance could not have any weight with the lady they were about to attend.

At this time Lord Baltimore's coach was waiting in the neighbourhood; and Isaacs, going out under the pretence of calling a coach, gave directions for drawing it to the door. This being done, the parties got into it; but Miss Woodcock did not observe whether it was a hackney-coach or not.

The coachman drove at a great rate; the glasses were drawn up, and at length they arrived in the court-yard of a house, apparently that of a person of fashion. Mrs. Harvey took Miss Woodcock up stairs through a suite of rooms elegantly furnished, in one of which she saw an elderly man sitting, whom she afterwards knew to be Dr. Griffenburg, who politely desired her to repose herself, while

he informed the lady of the house of her arrival.

Dr. Griffenburg had not been long absent when Lord Baltimore entered; and Miss Woodcock was much alarmed when she discovered that he was the very person who had repeatedly been at her shop; but he desired her to be appeased, saying that he was steward to the lady on whom she was come to attend. Miss Woodcock desired that she might immediately see the lady; on which Lord Baltimore said he would fetch her; and, soon afterwards bringing in Mrs. Griffenburg, said that she was the lady who had ordered the millinery goods.

Orders were now given for tea; and, when the equipage was taken from the table, Lord Baltimore brought from another room some purses, a ring, some smelling-bottles, and other articles, which he said he had purchased for Miss Woodcock. She seemed to despise the trifles, which she intimated might have pleased her well enough when a child.

As the evening advanced, she seemed importunate to depart, saying that her friends would become uneasy at her long absence; but at this time she had no idea of being forcibly detained.

To divert her from the thought of departing, Lord Baltimore took her to view several apartments in the house. On their coming into one of which, where there was a harpsichord, he proposed to play a tune on that instrument to the young lady; and, when he had so done, and she became still more anxious to depart, he insisted that she should stay to supper, and gave a private intimation to Mrs. Griffenburg to make the necessary preparations.

Mrs. Griffenburg being retired,

Lord Baltimore took Miss Woodcock behind the window-curtain, and behaved to her in a manner very inconsistent with the rules of decency. On her making violent opposition to this insult, Dr. Griffenburg and Mrs. Harvey advanced, as if to assist his lordship; but she contested the matter with them all, and, forcing her way towards the door, declared that she would go home immediately: yet still it does not appear that she had any suspicion of sustaining the violence that was afterwards offered her.

After this, Lord Baltimore insisted on her sitting with him at supper; but her mind was too much discomposed to admit of her thinking of taking any refreshment. He offered her a glass of syllabub; but she beat it out of his hand, and ran towards the door, with an intention to have departed: but he told her it was late; that no coach was then to be procured; and at length said positively that she should not go home.

Dr. Griffenburg, with his wife, and Mrs. Harvey, now endeavored to prevail on the young lady to go to bed; but she declared that she would never sleep in that house. On this they conducted her to a room, in which they went to bed: but she continued walking about till the morning, and lamenting her unhappy situation.

Looking out of the window about eight o'clock, she observed a young woman passing, to whom she threw out her handkerchief, which was then heavy with tears. As the party did not see her, she called out 'Young woman!' on which the other made a motion as if she would fling the handkerchief within the rails.

As Miss Woodcock called to the woman, with an intention of send-

ing her to her father, the two women now jumped out of bed, and forced her from the window, upbraiding her with what they called a rejection of her good fortune, and wishing themselves in so happy a situation.

Her reply was, that all the fortune the man possessed should not prevail on her to think of living with him on dishonorable terms; and she again demanded that liberty to which she had so just a claim.

The women now quitting the room, Lord Baltimore and Dr. Griffenburg came in soon afterwards; when the former said that he was astonished at her outrageous behaviour, as he had promised that she should go home at twelve o'clock. She replied that she would go home directly, as her sister, and particularly her father, would be inexpressibly anxious on occasion of her absence.

Lord Baltimore now conducted her down stairs, and ordered breakfast; but she refused to eat, and wept incessantly till twelve o'clock, when she once more demanded her liberty. His lordship now said that he loved her to excess; that he could not part with her; that he did not intend any injury to her, and that he would write to her father: and on this he wrote a letter, of which the following is a copy; and in it sent a bank-note of two hundred pounds:—

'Your daughter Sally sends you the enclosed, and desires you will not be uneasy on her account, because every thing will turn out well with a little patience and prudence. She is at a friend's house safe and well, in all honesty and honour; nothing else is meant, you may depend on it; and, sir, as your presence and consent are necessary, we beg of you to come, in a private

manner, to Mr. Richard Smith's, in Broad Street Buildings.'

Lord Baltimore showed this letter to Miss Woodcock; but so greatly was her mind disturbed, that she knew little of its contents; and so exceedingly was she terrified, that she wrote the following words at the bottom, by his direction: 'Dear father, this is true, and should be glad you would come this afternoon:—From your dutiful daughter.'

After writing the above postscript, she appears to have been convinced of the impropriety of it, and, turning to his lordship, she said 'Can you look me in the face, and say that your name is Richard Smith, or that these are Broad Street Buildings?' Struck with guilt, he acknowledged his name was not Richard Smith, but said that gentleman lived within a few doors; and that the place was not the Broad Street Buildings in the city, but another of the same name at the west end of the town.

She now wept incessantly at the thought of her unhappy situation, and repeatedly begged for her liberty; but, no sooner did she presume to go towards the window to make her distress evident to any casual passenger, than one or other of the women forced her away.

At length Mrs. Griffenburg gave orders that the window should be nailed up; but Lord Baltimore came in at the juncture, and pretended to be very angry at this proceeding, lest it should be suspected that murder was intended to be committed in the house. His lordship then told Miss Woodcock that if she presumed to pull up the windows, or make any disturbance, he would throw her into the street; a circumstance by which she was greatly terrified.

This happened at the approach of night, and she continued weeping and lamenting her situation, and refused to take any refreshment at supper. When desired to go to bed, she refused to do so, unless Lord Baltimore would solemnly promise not to molest her. On this she spent the night walking about the room, while the two women who were appointed to guard her went to bed.

In the morning she went into a parlour, where Lord Baltimore waiting on her, she endeavored to represent his ill conduct in the most striking light, and begged that if he had the tenderness of a father for a child he would permit her to depart. He said that she might write to her father, which she did; and, fearful of giving offence, said that she had been treated 'with as much honour as she could expect, and begged her friends would come immediately.' Lord Baltimore was now out of the room; but the women told Miss Woodcock that his lordship had sent two hundred pounds to her father on the preceding day. She seemed amazed at this circumstance, which appears to be a proof of the anxiety of her mind at the time the letter was written.

Soon after this a servant came in with a letter as from the presumed Richard Smith. It was written in a language she did not understand; but Lord Baltimore pretended to explain it to her, saying it intimated that her father had been at Mr. Smith's, but would not wait while she was sent for.

In order to carry on the imposition, his lordship sent for a man who personated the supposed Mr. Smith; but Miss Woodcock was soon convinced that he had never seen her father, from the unsatisfactory answers that he gave to her inquiries.



After this Lord Baltimore played a tune, while the pretended Mr. Smith and Mrs. Harvey danced to the music; but in the mean time Miss Woodcock was tormented by a thousand conflicting passions. She was then shown some fine paintings in the room, one of which being that of a ship in distress, she said it bore a great resemblance to her own unhappy situation.

Then the man called Smith was desired by Lord Baltimore to draw Miss Woodcock's picture; and he instantly pulled out a pencil, and made the drawing, while the young lady sat in a posture of extreme grief and dejection.

At midnight Mr. Broughton, his lordship's steward, brought intelligence that Isaacs, the Jew, having offered a letter to Miss Woodcock's father, was stopped till he should give an account where the young lady was secreted. Lord Baltimore was, or affected to be, in a violent passion, and vowed vengeance against the father; but in the interim the Jew entered, and delivered a letter which he pretended to have received from Miss Woodcock's sister. She took it to read; but she had wept so much that her eyes were sore; and of all she read she could recollect but this passage:—'Only please to appoint a place where and when we may meet with you.'

The hour of retirement being arrived, Miss Woodcock refused to go up stairs, unless she might be assured of not receiving any insult from his lordship. She had not taken any sustenance since she entered the house. For this night she laid down in her clothes, on a bed in which Mrs. Harvey reposed herself. She asked this bad woman if she had ever been in love; and acknowledged that she herself was

addressed by a young fellow, who appeared to be very fond of her, and that they were to settle in business as soon as the marriage should take place; wherefore she desired Mrs. Harvey to show her the way out of a house that had been so obnoxious to her: but the answer of the latter was, that though she had lived in the house several years, she did not herself know the way out of it.

On the following morning, when Miss Woodcock went down stairs, she pleaded earnestly with Lord Baltimore for her liberty; on which he became most violently enraged, called her by the vilest names, and said that, if she spoke to him on the subject any more, he would either throw her out of the window, or send her home in a wheelbarrow, with her petticoats tied over her head; and, turning to Isaacs the Jew, he said, 'Take the slut to a mean house like herself;' which greatly terrified her, as she presumed he meant a house of ill fame.

The sufferings she had undergone having by this time made her extremely ill, Lord Baltimore mixed a physical draught for her, which he insisted on her drinking.

On the Sunday afternoon he begged her to sit and hear him talk. His discourse consisted of a ridicule on religion, and every thing that was sacred, even to the denying the existence of a soul.

After supper he made six several attempts to ravish her within two hours; but she repulsed him in such a determined manner, that it was impossible for him to accomplish his dishonorable purpose. On that night she lay with Mrs. Harvey; but could get no rest, as she was in perpetual fear of renewed insults from his lordship.

On the Monday morning she was told that she should see her father,

if she would dry her eyes, wash herself, and put on clean linen. Mrs. Griffenburg now supplied her with a change of linen; and then she was hurried into the coach with Lord Baltimore, Doctor Griffenburg, and the two women. They were carried to Lord Baltimore's country seat at Epsom, where she experienced several fresh acts of indecency from her ignoble tormentor; and, on her again resisting him, he said she must submit that night, with or without her consent; and in this declaration he was supported by the two infamous women.

At supper she ate a few mouthfuls; but declined drinking any thing, lest some intoxicating matter should be mixed with the liquor. Lord Baltimore and his people now diverted themselves with the game of blindman's buff; but Miss Woodcock refused to take any share in their ridiculous folly.

The two women now conducted her to the bed-chamber, and began to undress her; nor was she capable of making much resistance, being weak, through want of food and continued grief. Still, however, she begged to be deprived of life, rather than submit to dishonorable treatment.

On the drawing of the curtains she observed that Lord Baltimore was in bed, which added to her former terrors; but she was not suffered to remain long in doubt: the women left her; but, alas! not to her repose; for that night gave rise to the crime which furnished matter for the prosecution of which we are now reciting the particulars.

Twice (according to Miss Woodcock's deposition) was this horrid purpose effected; and, though she called out repeatedly for help, yet she found none; and in the morning, when she went to Mrs. Har-

vey's room, and told her what had passed, the latter advised her to be quiet, for that she had made noise enough already.

The infamous Harvey now hinting that worse consequences might still be expected, Miss Woodcock determined to seem content with her situation, disagreeable as it was, in the hope of obtaining the protection of her friends.

In this hope she frequently went to the window, flattering herself that she might see some person whom she knew. With the same view she went out once with his lordship, and once with Mrs. Griffenburg; and, having accidentally heard the name of Lord Baltimore mentioned, she presumed this to be the person who had treated her so ill; nor had she a guess who it was till this period.

On the afternoon of the day that she made this discovery they went to London, to the great joy of Miss Woodcock, who hoped now to find an easier communication with her friends. At her request she was permitted to sleep alone; and the next day he introduced her to Madam Saunier, the governess to his lordship's natural daughters, telling her that Miss Woodcock had been recommended as a companion to the young ladies.

On this day he gave her some money, and desired her to dispose of it as she thought proper; and, when night advanced, he sent Mrs. Griffenburg to order her to come to bed. She at first refused to comply, and at length yielded only on conditional terms. What passed this night is too horrid for relation.

On the following day Mrs. Griffenburg told her that she had been preparing another apartment for her, and begged that she would come and see it; and conducted

her to a stone garret, which was remarkably 'cold and damp; and, being among the servants' apartments, she began to apprehend that Lord Baltimore, having gratified his own passion, was disposed to transfer her to his dependents.

Miss Woodcock's friends now began to form some conjectures where she might be secreted; and Mr. Davis, a young fellow who had pail his addresses to her, determined to exert himself to ascertain the fact.

On the Sunday he placed himself under a window of Lord Baltimore's house, and had not been there long before she saw him, and intimated that she did so. On this Davis took out a book, motioning with his hand for her to write. She then waved her hand for him to approach; but, as he did not seem to comprehend her meaning, she ran into another room, and said 'I cannot come to you; is my father well?' He answered that all parties were well, and asked what was become of Mrs. Harvey. The young lady now put down the window, and retired, unable any longer to continue the conversation.

Mr. Davis now went and informed Miss Woodcock's father of the discovery he had made; on which the old gentleman went to Mr. Cay, a baker, in Whitecross Street, to ask his opinion. Mr. Cay went with him to Mr. Watts, an attorney, who advised them to make application to Lord Mansfield for a writ of habeas corpus. But it may be now necessary to take notice of what passed between Lord Baltimore and Miss Woodcock in the mean time.

On the day following that on which she had been seen by Davis, his lordship told her that she should see her father that day, at Dr. Griff-

fenburg's, in Dean Street, Soho; and he said he would make a settlement on her for life if she would acknowledge that she had been well treated. This she agreed to, in the hope of obtaining her freedom. She was then told that her father had caused Mrs. Harvey to be taken into custody.

Lord Baltimore now went to Griffenburgh's with Miss Woodcock, taking likewise a young lady, of whom she was to declare herself the companion: but they had been only a few minutes at Griffenburgh's when a servant came to apprise his lordship that Sir John Fielding's people had surrounded his house.

Lord Baltimore, having previously sent one of his servants with a letter to Miss Woodcock's father, now ordered a coach; and he, and Dr. Griffenburgh and the young lady, now went to a tavern in Whitechapel, in quest of the servant, who told them that Mr. Woodcock having been out all day in search of his daughter, and not being returned, he (the servant) would not leave the letter, from a point of prudence.

Herenupon they drove to a house in Covent Garden, where the servant soon arrived with a note from Sir John Fielding's clerk, desiring Miss Woodcock to come to Bow Street, where her friends were, in expectation of her arrival. Fearful of taking any step that might involve her in still farther difficulties, she showed Lord Baltimore the note, when he declared she should not comply with the contents; and they immediately drove to Dr. Griffenburgh's.

At this place they were met by his lordship's steward, who said his house was still surrounded by peace-officers; but, as they went away soon afterwards, this un-



worthy peer then took Miss Woodcock home in his own carriage.

On their arrival the valet-de-chambre told his master that on the Sunday morning the young lady had spoken to a person from the window. His lordship now demanded if this was fact. She acknowledged that it was; but said she had not acquainted her friends with her distressed situation.

He now tried to calm her mind, but said that she must sleep with him that night, which she positively refused, unless he would engage not to offer her any insult; and this promise was made, and complied with.

In the morning Mr. Watts, the attorney, called at Lord Baltimore's house with a writ of habeas corpus; but the porter would not admit him till he produced the writ; but then he was asked into the house, and Lord Baltimore made acquainted with his business. On this his lordship told his prisoner Mr. Watts's business, and begged she would prepare to see him with all possible composure.

In the interim his lordship waited on the attorney, who demanded whether one Sarah Woodcock was in his house: but, on his declining to give an immediate answer, Watts said that he would serve the writ unless she was instantly produced; and that the consequence would be that all his doors must be broke open till she was found: but he hoped that so violent a procedure would not be necessary.

His lordship now begged his patience for a short time, and his requisition should be complied with. Mr. Watts agreed to wait, and the other, going to Miss Woodcock, requested her to write to her father, and declare that she had been used with tenderness, and had consented to her then situation; and he desired

her to add that she wished to see her father and sisters, but hoped their visit would be of the peaceful kind; and with all this she complied, in hope, as she afterwards declared, of obtaining her liberty.

This letter being sealed, and dispatched by one of his lordship's servants, he introduced the attorney to Miss Woodcock, who asked her if her residence in that house was matter of choice, or whether she was forcibly detained. She replied that she remained there by her own consent, but that she was anxious to see her father.

With this declaration Mr. Watts appeared satisfied, saying that no person had any right to interfere, if she voluntarily consented to her situation.

His lordship then intimated that it would be proper for her to go to Lord Mansfield, and make a similar declaration. She made no hesitation to comply with this proposal; but still appeared exceedingly anxious to have a conference with her father.

On this the parties went to Lord Mansfield's house in Bloomsbury Square, where they were shown into different apartments; and Miss Woodcock's friends waited in an antechamber, to hear the issue of this extraordinary affair.

The young lady being examined by Lord Mansfield, he inquired minutely into the circumstances respecting her being conveyed to Lord Baltimore's house. She answered every question in the most explicit manner; and, when the judge asked her if she was willing to live with his lordship, she answered in the affirmative; but expressed great earnestness to see her friends first.

On this she was shown into the room where her friends waited; and the first question she asked was 'Who Lord Mansfield was,

and whether he had a right to set her at liberty?' She was told that his right was indisputable; and his lordship being again consulted, he inquired if she still adhered to her former opinion; to which she replied that she did not, but desired to go home with her father.

His lordship then asked her how happened the sudden change in her mind. Her answer was 'Because, till I saw them, I did not know you had power to release me.' His lordship then said 'Child, it is in my power to let you go;' and told her she was at full liberty to go where she pleased; on which she went into the other room to her friends, but was unable to express her joy on the occasion.

In the interim Lord Mansfield addressed the Reverend Mr. Watson, a dissenting minister, and some other persons present, to the following effect:—'Gentlemen, I would have you take notice of Miss Woodcock's answers, because possibly this matter may be variously talked of in public, and justice ought to be done to both parties; for, when this lady came before me on her private examination, she expressed a desire to see her father and sister, or sisters: and now she has answered as you have heard.'

On Miss Woodcock's discharge, Mr. Cay, the baker, in Whitecross Street (to whom her father had delivered the two hundred pound bank-note, which had been enclosed in the letter by Lord Baltimore), conveyed the young lady to Sir John Fielding, before whom she swore to the actual commission of the rape by Lord Baltimore.

At this time Mrs. Griffenburg and Mrs. Harvey were in custody; and a warrant was issued to apprehend Lord Baltimore; but he secreted himself for the present, and surrendered to the Court of King's

Bench on the last day of Hilary term, 1768; and the two women being brought thither by *habeas corpus*, they were all admitted to bail, in order for trial at Kingston, in Surrey, because the crime was alleged to have been committed at his lordship's seat at Epsom.

In the interim Miss Woodcock went to the house of Mr. Cay, in Whitecross Street; but, not being properly accommodated there, she went to the house of a friend, where she lived in great privacy and retirement till the time arrived for the trial of the offending parties.

Bills of indictment being found against Lord Baltimore and the two women, they were all brought to trial before the Lord Chief Baron Smythe; and, after the evidence against them had been given, in substance as may be collected from the preceding narrative, Lord Baltimore made the following defence, which was read in Court by Mr. Hamersley, solicitor to his lordship:—

'My Lord and Gentlemen,

'I have put myself upon my country, in hopes that prejudice and clamour will avail nothing in this place, where it is the privilege of the meanest of the king's subjects to be presumed innocent until his guilt has been made appear by legal evidence. I wish I could say that I had been treated abroad with the same candour. I have been loaded with obloquy, the most malignant libels have been circulated, and every other method which malice could devise has been taken to create general prejudice against me. I thank God that, under such circumstances, I have had firmness and resolution enough to meet my accusers face to face, and provoke an inquiry into my conduct. *Hic murus aheneus esto,—nil conscire sibi.*

The charge against me, and against these poor people who are involved with me, because they might otherwise have been just witnesses of my innocence, is in its nature very easy to be made, and hard to be disproved. The accuser has the advantage of supporting it by a direct and positive oath; the defence can only be collected from circumstances.

‘My defence is composed, then, of a variety of circumstances, all tending to show the falsity of this charge, the absurdity of it, the improbability that it could be true. It will be laid before the jury under the direction of my counsel; and I have the confidence of an innocent man, that it will be manifest to your lordship, the jury, and the whole world, that the story told by this woman is a perversion of truth in every particular. What could induce her to make such a charge I can only suspect: very soon after she came to my house, upon a representation to me that her father was distressed, I sent him a considerable sum of money: whether the ease with which that money was obtained from me might suggest the idea as a means of obtaining a larger sum of money, or whether it was thought necessary to destroy me, in order to establish the character of the girl to the world, I know not; but I do aver, upon the word of a man of honour, that there is no truth in any thing which has been said or sworn of my having offered violence to this girl. I ever held such brutality in abhorrence. I am totally against all force; and for me to have forced this woman, considering my weak state of health, and my strength, is not only a moral, but a physical, impossibility. She is, as to bodily strength, stronger than I am. Strange opinions, upon sub-

jects foreign to this charge, have been falsely imputed to me, to inflame this accusation. Libertine as I am represented, I hold no such opinions. Much has been said against me, that I seduced this girl from her parents: seduction is not the point of this charge; but I do assure your lordship and the jury this part of the case has been aggravated exceedingly beyond the truth. If I have been in any degree to blame, I am sure I have sufficiently atoned for every indiscretion, which a weak attachment to this unworthy woman may have led me into, by having suffered the disgrace of being exposed as a criminal at the bar in the county which my father had the honour to represent in parliament, and where I had some pretensions to have attained the same honour, had that sort of an active life been my object.

‘I will take up no more of your lordship’s time than to add that, if I had been conscious of the guilt now imputed to me, I could have kept myself and my fortune out of the reach of the laws of this country. I am a citizen of the world; I could have lived any where: but I love my own country, and submit to its laws, resolving that my innocence should be justified by the laws. I now, by my own voluntary act, by surrendering myself to the Court of King’s Bench, stake, upon the verdict of twelve men, my life, my fortune, and, what is dearer to me, my honour.

‘BALTIMORE.

‘March 25, 1768.’

The substance of the defences of Mrs. Griffenburg and Mrs. Harvey consisted principally in alleging that Miss Woodcock had consented to all that had passed, and that no force had been used towards her either by Lord Baltimore or themselves.



The evidence of Dr. Griffenburg was not admitted, as his name was upon record, on a charge of having been concerned in a crime of a similar nature.

After every thing alleged against the prisoners had been heard in the most dispassionate manner, the judge addressed himself to the jury in the following terms:—

‘Gentlemen of the Jury,

‘The prisoner at the bar, Lord Baltimore, stands indicted for feloniously ravishing, and carnally knowing, Sarah Woodcock, spinster, against her will, on the 22d of December last, at Epsom, against the statute which makes this offence felony: and the other two prisoners are indicted as accessories before the fact, by feloniously and maliciously procuring, aiding, and abetting Lord Baltimore to commit the said rape, at the same time and place. To this they have pleaded not guilty, and you are to try if they are guilty. Before I state to you the evidence I will mention to you two or three things: in the first place, my lord complains of libels and printed accounts of this transaction, which have been circulated. It is a most unjustifiable practice, and tends to the perversion of public justice; and, therefore, if you have seen any thing printed on the side of the prosecutrix, or the prisoners, I must desire you to divest yourselves of any prejudice that such publications must have occasioned, and give your verdict only on the evidence now laid before you. Another thing I desire is, that, whichever way the verdict is given, none of the friends of any of the parties will make use of any expressions of approbation or applause, which are extremely improper and indecent in a court of justice, and I shall certainly commit any person whom I

know to be guilty of it. The last thing that I shall mention to you is, to desire that no resentment you may feel at the manner in which she was carried to Lord Baltimore’s house may have any influence on your verdict; for, however unwarrantable the manner was in which she came into his power, if, at the time he lay with her, it was by her consent, he is not guilty of the offence of which he is indicted; though it was proper to be given in evidence on this trial, to account for her being with him, and his having an opportunity of committing the crime; and to show, from the indirect manner of getting her to his house, the greater probability that her account is true. Having said this, I will now state to you the whole evidence as particularly as I can.’

Mr. Barou Smythe then stated the whole of the evidence to the jury, as before given, which took up three hours, and then concluded thus:—

‘In point of law, the fact is fully proved on my lord and the two other prisoners, if you believe the evidence of Sarah Woodcock. It is a crime which in its nature can only be proved by the woman on whom it is committed; for she only can tell whether she consented or no: it is, as my lord observes, very easy to be made, and hard to be disproved; and the defence can only be collected from circumstances; from these you must judge whether her evidence is or is not to be believed. Lord Hale, in his ‘History of the Pleas of the Crown,’ lays down the rules:—1. If complaint is not made soon after the injury is supposed to be received; 2. If it is not followed by a recent prosecution; a strong presumption arises that the complaint is malicious. She has owned

the injury was received December 22; the complaint was not made till December 29; but she has accounted for it in the manner you have heard. The strong part of the case on behalf of the prisoners is her not complaining when she was at Lord Mansfield's, the supreme magistrate in the kingdom in criminal matters. You have heard how she has explained and accounted for her conduct in that particular, which you will judge of. Upon the whole, if you believe that she made the discovery as soon as she knew she had an opportunity of doing it, and that her account is true, you will find all the prisoners guilty; if you believe that she did not make the discovery as soon as she had an opportunity, and from thence, or other circumstances, are not satisfied her account is true, you will find them all not guilty; for, if he is not guilty, they cannot be so; for they cannot be accessory to a crime which was never committed.'

After an absence of an hour and twenty minutes, the jury returned with a verdict that the prisoners were Not Guilty.

This singular affair was tried at Kingston, in Surrey, on the 26th of March, 1768.

Our readers will not be displeased with a few remarks on this very extraordinary transaction.—The meanness of Lord Baltimore, and the unreasonable terror and ignorance of Miss Woodcock, will appear to be equal objects of astonishment. His lordship's devices to obtain possession of this woman were beneath the dignity of a nobleman, or, indeed, of any man; and her tame submission to the insult is a proof that she had little idea of the sacred protection which the

laws of her country would have afforded her; for Lord Baltimore's house (at the bottom of Southampton Row, Bloomsbury) was not so obscurely situated but that she might have made application to many a passenger.

Something, indeed, must be allowed to feminine fear on such an occasion, after she once found herself in the actual possession of a man from whom she thought it would be dangerous even to attempt an escape.

Miss Woodcock's ignorance of Lord Mansfield's power will appear very extraordinary; but surely not more so than that of a man, who, being an evidence before Sir John Fielding, addressed him successively by the titles of sir! your honour! your worship! your lordship! your grace! and your majesty! These appellations were repeatedly heard to be given within half an hour by the writer of this narrative; and he presumes the circumstance may be considered as an apology for the superlative ignorance of Miss Woodcock.

On the whole, however, this case is of the melancholy kind. What shall we think of a man, of Lord Baltimore's rank and fortune, who could debase himself beneath all rank and distinction, and, by the wish to gratify his irregular passions, submit to degrade himself in the opinion of his own servants and other domestics?

Addison has a fine sentiment, by which our nobility ought to be influenced:—

'Honour's a sacred tie; the law of kings;  
The noble mind's distinguishing perfection:  
It aids and strengthens Virtue where it  
meets her,

And imitates her actions where she is not:  
It is not to be sported with.'——

## JAMES SAMPSON,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING AND SETTING FIRE TO A HOUSE.

This criminal possessed talents which, properly applied, would not only have proved both honorable and lucrative to himself, but of use to the nation. On the other hand, we find him most basely betraying his trust; and, robbing and then burning, the hospitable dwelling of his protector.

Early in life Sampson gave proofs of an extraordinary genius for drawing, to which his friends affording proper encouragement, his progress in the art was exceedingly rapid. The youth's uncommon talents being mentioned to the Duke of Richmond, his grace engaged him in his service on very liberal terms, and employed masters properly qualified to afford every possible improvement to his genius, and afterwards warmly recommended him to the patronage of the Right Honorable General Conway, who appointed him one of the draughtsmen to the Tower.

The greatest part of his time that was not engaged in a necessary attention to the duties of his office Sampson employed in making copies of the natural curiosities in the British Museum, and in the conversation of learned and ingenious men, by whom that celebrated library was frequented; and he was so highly esteemed, both by the Duke of Richmond and General Conway, that he had free access to them on all occasions. Having married an upper servant to the general's family, he appeared to live in a state of great felicity; but, unfortunately, he maintained an illicit intercourse with some women of debauched principles, whose extravagances involved him in many embarrassments.

Being allowed the liberty of amusing himself in the general's library, he learned that money and papers of consequence were kept there; and this tempted him to the fatal resolution of robbing his benefactor, and setting fire to the house as a means of concealing his guilt.

Having secreted himself in the house, he waited till he supposed the family were retired to rest, and then entered the library, where he stole property to a considerable amount, and set fire to some of the furniture.

About six in the morning the general was alarmed by the cry of 'Fire!' and perceived smoke issuing from the library; but he would not permit the door to be opened till the engines arrived, lest the flames should burst out, and communicate to the other parts of the building. The engines being ready to play, he directed the firemen to use their endeavours to secure a writing-table that stood in a corner of the room, several bank-notes being deposited in a drawer of it. This table was brought out, a part of it burnt, and the drawer open in which the bank-notes had been deposited; and the general put all the papers he found in the drawer into his pocket.

When the confusion occasioned by the supposed accident had subsided, the general examined the papers taken out of the drawer; and, missing a bank-note of five hundred pounds, and four of one hundred pounds each, concluded that the room had been fired for the purpose of concealing the robbery.

All the domestics in the house had lived many years in the gene-



ral's service, and he had the firmest confidence in their fidelity ; but, in order to secure his property, and discover the author of the horrid fact, which he strongly suspected to have been committed by some person well acquainted with his house, he made application to the Bank, where he learnt that the note for five hundred pounds had been already changed for others of smaller value ; and, from the description of the person who had changed it, his suspicions were fixed on Sampson.

It was now determined that Mr. Camp, who had received the note, and Mr. Lambert, who had delivered the smaller ones on Camp's ticket, should attend at the Duke of Richmond's house at an appointed hour.

The duke sent a servant to Sampson's lodgings, desiring to see him on business ; and he presently attended, and entered into conversation on different subjects with his grace and General Conway. The above-mentioned clerks to the Bank being introduced, and immediately recognising the person of Sampson, a signal was made that had been before agreed on ; in consequence of which the general accused Sampson of the robbery and setting fire to the library. For some time he steadily denied the

charge ; but, finding no possibility of confuting the evidence of Camp and Lambert, he at length confessed all the particulars of his guilt.

Sampson's lodgings at Pimlico being searched, the two notes received at the Bank, and the four stolen from the drawer of the writing-table, were found. The delinquent being taken before Sir John Fielding, he was committed to Newgate for trial, which came on at the following sessions at the Old Bailey, when he was convicted, and sentenced to be hanged.

While he remained in Newgate he regularly attended prayers in the chapel, and appeared to repent with unfeigned sincerity of the horrid crime he had committed ; and on the morning of his execution he received the sacrament in a manner that seemed to prove him earnest in his devotion.

The passage of carriages being obstructed by the pavement being broken up in Holborn, Sampson was conveyed through Smithfield, Cow Cross, Turnmill Street, and the King's Road, to Tyburn, where he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and, after some time employed in prayer, suffered the punishment due to his offences on the 11th of March, 1768.

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### JAMES GIBSON, ESQ.

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THIS unfortunate gentleman was of a respectable family, and, having received a liberal education, was bound clerk to Mr. Francis, an attorney of eminence, residing in Lincoln's Inn. His good behaviour, and the rapid improvement he made in the profession of the law, induced his master, on the expira-

tion of his articles, to take him into partnership.

In the early part of life he had married a young lady, with whom he received a genteel fortune, and by whom he had five children, all living at the time of his death ; but, notwithstanding these tender pledges of his love, he deserted his

wife and family for the embraces of a mistress, who had been kept by a Scotch nobleman, leaving them to suffer the extremes of want, while he was enjoying the luxuries of life.

Mr. Francis's business was of an extensive nature, and was principally transacted by Gibson, who was complete master of his profession. The Treasury, and a variety of other concerns, were committed to the care of Mr. Francis, and by him to the management of Gibson. Among other engagements Mr. Francis was employed in a cause respecting an estate in Chancery, on which an injunction was issued; and a person was appointed to receive the rents of the estate till the lord-chancellor should make his final decree. In the interim Gibson, having reduced himself by a profuse mode of living, forged the handwriting of the accomptant-general of the Court of Chancery, in a suit which he was soliciting for Robert Lee, Esq. and others, executors to the late Sir G. Brown, Baronet, Robert Pringle, and others, in consequence of which he received above nine hundred pounds. Discovery of this transaction being made in a short time, Gibson was taken into custody, and lodged in Newgate, in September, 1766. Being brought to trial for the forgery at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges. From this time Gibson continued in Newgate till January 1768 (upwards of fifteen months), and it was the prevailing opinion that no farther notice would be taken of the affair: however, Gibson, by repeated applications, urged

that his case might be determined by the judges; and at length, in Hilary term, 1768, the learned bench made a final decision on his case, importing that it came within the meaning of the law; consequently he received sentence of death, and was removed into the cells of Newgate. After sentence his behaviour was every way becoming his melancholy situation, and he reflected with much sorrow on his unkindness to his wife and family. His preparation for the awful change that awaited him appeared to be rational, serious, and devout. He applied for pardon to that throne of mercy whence alone he had a right to expect it. His seriousness seemed to increase as the solemn moment approached, and it was evident that he was determined to meet his fate as became a man and a Christian.

His behaviour was so pious, so resigned, and in all respects so admirably adapted to his unhappy situation, that the tears of the commiserating multitude accompanied his last ejaculation.

'Who by repentance is not satisfied,  
Is nor of Heaven, nor Earth; for these are  
pleas'd:

By penitence, th' eternal wrath's appeas'd.'

He was carried to Tyburn, March the 23d, 1768, in a mourning-coach, and requested that his fellow-sufferer, Benjamin Payne, a footpad, who he saw placed in a cart, might accompany him, which the sheriff refused.

This man's fate adds an instance to the many we have recorded of the prostitution of shining abilities. In his profession no man excelled Gibson; and yet no man more abused it, for which he justly forfeited his life.

## JOHN WILKES, ESQ.

CONVICTED OF SEDITION AND BLASPHEMY.

THE year 1768 will ever be remembered in the annals of English history, on account of the murders and mischief committed by a deluded mob, stimulated by the writings, and opposition to the government, of John Wilkes, Esq. an alderman of London, and member of parliament for Aylesbury.

The most scandalous and offensive of his writings were in a periodical publication called 'The North Briton,' No. 45; and a pamphlet entitled 'An Essay on Woman.'\*

The 'North Briton' was of a political nature; the other a piece of obscenity: the one calculated to set the people against the government; the other to corrupt their morals.

Among the ministers who found themselves more personally attacked in the 'North Briton' was Samuel Martin, Esq. member for

Camelford. This gentleman found his character, as secretary of the treasury, so vilified, that he called the writer to the field.

Wilkes had already been engaged in a duel with Lord Talbot, and escaped unhurt; but Mr. Martin shot him in the body, of which wound he laid in imminent danger during several days, and confined to his house for some weeks.

The attorney-general filed informations against Wilkes, as author of 'The North Briton,' No. 45,† and a pamphlet entitled 'An Essay on Woman.' On these charges he was apprehended, and committed prisoner to the Tower, but soon admitted to bail.

His papers were forcibly seized, for which he charged the secretaries of state with a robbery, and which was afterwards, by the Court of King's Bench, determined to have been illegal.

Before his trial came on, Mr.

\* This 'Essay on Woman' was a parody on Pope's sublime work, called 'An Essay on Man.'

A learned divine, the Rev. Mr. Kidgell, thus writes on the works of Wilkes:—

'On the title-page is an obscene print, with a Greek inscription, signifying "The Saviour of the World." We shall, the poison of the publication being long eradicated, merely quote a commentator on the subject:

"In this work (an 'Essay on Woman') the lowest thoughts are expressed in terms of the greatest obscenity; the most horrid impurity is minutely represented; the sex is vilified and insulted; and the whole is scurrilous, impudent, and impious, to an incredible degree. In the variations and notes the inspired writings are perverted into the gross ideas of a libidinous blasphemer, with an invention new, wonderful, and horrid. The most solemn and important passages of the Gospel are tortured into the oblique obscenity of double meanings, worthy only of him who is at once the enemy of God and man."

† The paper entitled 'The North Briton' was ordered to be burnt by the common executioner, at the Royal Exchange. Mr. Alderman Harley, one of the sheriffs of London, attending in his official capacity, to see this carried into execution, was assaulted and wounded by the mob. A man of the name of John Franklin was seized as one of the offenders, and committed to Newgate. On the day of the conviction of Wilkes he was tried for this outrage at the Old Bailey, and found guilty.

When the trial was ended, the worthy alderman addressed the Court in behalf of the prisoner. He said that, for his part, he had forgiven the affront offered to his own person; that just ce required a prosecution: it had been, by the conviction of the offender, in part satisfied, and the more, he hoped, the Court would mitigate his punishment. The Court complied with the prosecutor's humane request, and sentenced the prisoner to a short imprisonment, to pay a fine of six shillings and eightpence, and to be kept in his good behavior for one year.



Wilkes fled to France; but under the pretext of restoring his health, which had suffered from his wound, and the harassing measures taken against him by the secretaries of state, Lord Egremont and Lord Halifax. No sooner was he out of the kingdom than they proceeded to outlawry, dismissed him from his command as colonel of the Buckinghamshire militia, and expelled him from his seat in parliament.

But even a foreign land did not shelter him from the resentment of his fellow-subjects.

On the 15th of August, Captain Forbes, in the British service, met Wilkes walking with Lord Palmerston, in Paris, who, though he had never seen either of them, yet, from a drawing, he conceived one of them to be the man who had so much abused his country, Scotland. Finding his conjecture right, he told Wilkes that, as the author of 'The North Briton,' he must fight him. Wilkes referred him to his hotel. When Mr. Forbes got an interview with Wilkes, which he stated to have been attended with much difficulty, he was answered that he (Wilkes) would meet no man in combat until he had fought Lord Egremont, and whom he could not challenge while he held his high official station under government.

The captain insisted to no purpose; and then, calling him a scoundrel, threatened him with a caning on their next meeting in the public streets.

Lord Egremont's death, which happened at this juncture, having released Wilkes from his pretended sanguinary determination against that nobleman, and the marshals of

France having taken him into custody, and issued their warrants against Forbes, the former, on regaining his liberty, wrote a challenge to the latter, in a letter to his friend and countryman, Alexander Murray, Esq. who was also then in Paris. In this address he says 'You know every thing that passed between us, and the wild extravagant wish he (Captain Forbes) formed of fighting me, on no pretence nor provocation. I am no prize-fighter, yet I told him I would indulge him as soon as I could. I mentioned to him the affair of Lord Egremont, and a previous engagement I thought myself under. Lord Egremont, to my great regret (greater I believe than of any other person), has prevented my proceeding farther, and, as a Frenchman would say, "*Il n'a joué un vilain tour.*" I am now at Captain Forbes's service, and shall wait his commands. I do not know where he is, for he has not appeared in Paris for some time.\* As your house has been his asylum, I am necessitated to beg you, sir, to acquaint Captain Forbes that I will be at Menin, the first town in Austrian Flanders,† on the confines of France, the 21st of this month, September, 1768, and that Monsieur Goy will do me the honour of accompanying me; but he only.'

We find nothing of this meeting, the captain having gone to England.

In a few months Mr. Wilkes also returned to London, and gave notice that he would, on a certain day, surrender himself on the informations filed against him. He

\* Captain Forbes, to avoid being taken on the marshals' warrant, fled from Paris.

† It must be observed that Mr. Wilkes, in order to regain his liberty, when apprehended for being about to break the peace by duelling with Captain Forbes, was ordered to give bond for his good behaviour, and therefore could not fight in the French dominions.

then appeared in his place, as an alderman, in Guildhall; and, on his return, the mob took the horses from his carriage, and dragged it to his house, crying 'Wilkes and liberty!'

On the 21st of February, 1764, the trial of Mr. Wilkes, for the libels before mentioned, came on before Lord Mansfield, and on both he was found guilty.

More than two years were occupied in law proceedings on the validity of his apprehension, the seizure of his papers, and the outlawry, the detail of which would afford little entertainment to our readers. Meanwhile Wilkes's popularity and the outrages of the mob daily increased.

On the 27th of April, 1768, Mr. Wilkes, having been served with a writ of *Capias Utlogatum*, appeared before the Court of King's Bench, in the custody of the proper officer. His counsel moved to admit him to bail, but which was opposed by the counsel for the crown; who contended that no precedent could be produced of a person under a criminal conviction being admitted to bail, for, by such an indulgence, it might be said that a man who flies from justice, and is thereupon outlawed, would be in a better state than the man who submits to it: in the latter case, after conviction, he must remain in custody until sentence is passed; whereas, in the former case, he would be at large.

The Court held with this kind of argument, and Mr. Wilkes was ordered to the King's Bench prison. In his way thither the coach in which he was carried was stopped by the mob, who took off the horses, and dragged it, with him, through the city, to a public house in Spitalfields, where they permitted him to alight. From thence, about eleven at night, he made his escape, and immediately

proceeded towards the prison, where he surrendered himself.

The next day he was visited by many of his friends, and the prison was surrounded by a vast concourse of people, who, it was feared, would have offered some outrage; but all remained quiet until night, when they pulled up the rails which enclosed the footway, with which they made a bonfire, and obliged the inhabitants of the borough of Southwark to illuminate their houses; nor would they disperse until the arrival of a captain's guard of soldiers.

From this time a mob constantly surrounded the King's Bench prison for several days. At length the justices appeared, followed by the military; the Riot Act was read; and, the mob not dispersing, the soldiers were ordered to fire upon them. Many were killed, and among them some passengers, at a considerable distance from the scene of confusion.

On the 28th the case of the outlawry was finally argued in the Court of King's Bench. Sergeant Glynn, on the part of Mr. Wilkes, greatly added to his reputation as a sound lawyer, and was ably answered by the attorney-general; but the judges, though they somewhat differed in their reasons on the illegality of the outlawry, were unanimous in their opinion that it should be reversed. This was a great point obtained by Mr. Wilkes; and, obnoxious as he was to government, the determination, consistent with law, was upright and honorable in the learned bench.

Mr. Wilkes was not, however, destined to clear himself by this single point gained; for the attorney-general immediately moved, that judgment might be passed upon him on his several convictions. The

prisoner's counsel upon this moved an arrest of judgment; and the Court appointed the next Thursday to hear the arguments thereon. The general warrant on which Mr. Wilkes was apprehended was also declared illegal.

These determinations will show the reader that, however great a man's crimes, he must be proceeded against according to the strict letter of the law of the land. In this respect Mr. Wilkes was hardly dealt with, and he took especial care to promulgate those hardships to the people.

In his address to his constituents, the freeholders of Middlesex, he says :—

‘In the whole progress of ministerial vengeance against me for several years, I have shown, to the conviction of all mankind, that my enemies have trampled on the laws, and have been actuated by the spirit of tyranny and arbitrary power.

‘The *general warrant* under which I was first apprehended has been adjudged illegal. The *seizure* of my papers was condemned judicially. The *outlawry*, so long the topic of violent abuse, is, at last, declared to have been contrary to law; and, on the ground first taken by my friend, Mr. Sergeant Glynn, is formally reversed.’

On the day appointed for that purpose the last effort was made to get rid of the remainder of the proceedings against Mr. Wilkes. The arguments for an arrest of judgment, though carried on with great ingenuity, would not hold, and he was found legally convicted of writing the libels. For that in the ‘True Briton’ he was fined five hundred pounds, and sentenced to two years’ imprisonment in the King’s Bench prison; and for the ‘Essay on Woman’ five hundred pounds more, a farther imprison-

ment of twelve months, and to find security for his good behaviour for seven years.

Previously to his imprisonment Mr. Wilkes was elected member of parliament for Middlesex, when the mob proceeded to various acts of outrage. They broke the windows of Lord Bute, the prime minister, and of the Mansion House, even that of the lady mayoress’s bed-chamber; forced the inhabitants of the metropolis to illuminate their houses, crying out—‘Wilkes and Liberty!’ and all who refused to echo it back were knocked down.

A stone was thrown by this daring mob at the Polish Count Rawotski, which he dexterously caught in his hand, the windows of his carriage in which he sat being fortunately down. His lordship looking out and smiling, he received no other violence.

The outrages of the populace were too many to be enumerated; several innocent people were killed, and vast numbers wounded. They broke windows without number, destroyed furniture, and even insulted royalty itself.

Thus we find that Wilkes was long the idol of the mob, but, like all other leaders of this creation, he fell into oblivion, and passed through the crowd with as little notice as any other man. He greatly wished to possess the chamberlainship of London, but the better class of citizens were too wary to trust him with their cash, and, after a contested election for that lucrative situation, Alderman Hopkins was chosen; but it was suspected that at length he got a sop into some corner of the political dripping-pan, as the remainder of his life was very passive on all political measures.

The metropolis, as well as va-



rious other parts of the kingdom, had not been so convulsed with riots and partial insurrections since the civil wars as during the short time of Wilkes's popularity, of the dreadful effects of which we shall adduce some instances.

These disgraceful tumults, and the lenity, or, as some would have it, the timidity of government, spread disaffection into all classes of mechanics, who, thinking the time at hand when they might exact what wages they pleased, and, perhaps, beyond their masters' profits, struck their work.\*

The sailors also, following the example of the landsmen, went in a body of many thousands, with drums beating and colours flying, to St. James's Palace, and presented a petition to the king, praying a 'Relief of Grievances.' Two days afterwards they assembled in much greater numbers, and proceeded as far as Palace Yard, in order to petition Parliament for an increase of wages; where they were addressed by two gentlemen standing on the top of a hackney coach, who told them that their petition could not be immediately attended to, but that it would be considered and answered in due time, whereupon the tars gave three cheers, and for a while dispersed. A short time afterwards, however, they assembled at Limehouse, and,

hoarding several outward-bound vessels, forcibly carried away their crews, under pretence of not suffering ships to sail until the seamen's wages were increased.

The watermen of the Thames assembled in a body before the Mansion House, and complained to the lord mayor of the low prices of their fares; when his lordship advised them to draw up a petition to parliament, which he would himself present; upon which they gave him three cheers, and departed.

The Spital Fields' weavers proceeded to greater outrages. A great number of them forcibly entered the house of Mr. Nathaniel Farr, in Pratt's Alley, and cut to pieces and destroyed the silk-work manufactory in two different looms. They forcibly entered the house of his relation, Mrs. Elizabeth Pratt, in the same alley, and murdered a lad of seventeen years of age, by shooting him through the head with a pistol loaded with slugs. A reward was promised for apprehending these rioters, and his majesty's pardon offered to him who discovered the murderer.

The sawyers, assembling in large bodies, pulled down the saw-mill, lately erected at a great expense, on pretence that it deprived many workmen of employment. They also wanted more wages.

The hatters at the same time

\* Another instance of the enthusiasm of the lower order of the community, and the laxity of government, may be adduced from the circumstance of an assault made upon Emerson, one of the constables of St. Bride's, Fleet Street. The aggressor was a woman of the low Hibernian race, who, *in spirits*, was bawling out 'Wilkes and liberty!' Mr. Constable apprehended her, and she defended herself according to the pugilistic system.

Her defence on her trial was pithy, and to the point:

'May it please your Worships' Honours; I was going home, right quietly, with nobody with me but myself; and just as I was singing out praises for the *dear creature* Wilkes, that black whoreson dog took *the liberty* to take me up; and so d'ye see, an't please your Honours' Worships, I took *the liberty* of breaking his head, and sure that was nothing at all at all.'

The Court fined her a shilling, which she paid, observing 'That it was a cheap row, to break an English constable's head for a fifteen.' The reader must observe that, in Ireland, a shilling passes for thirteence.

struck, and demanded increased wages; but we do not hear of any outrages being committed by them.

The labouring husbandmen rose in several parts of England, in order to reduce the price of grain.

At Tenterden, in Kent, a paper was posted on the church door, threatening the farmers if they refused to sell their wheat at ten pounds a load, and the millers if they gave more; and exciting all the poor to assemble, and raise a mob, and those who refused were to have their right arms broken.

At Hastings, in Sussex, the mob committed various outrages on the farmers in that neighbourhood, and threatened the life of a justice of the peace for attempting to commit one of them to prison.

The journeymen coopers at Liverpool also rose in a body, and forced one of their masters on a pole, and in a cruel manner carried him through the streets, pretending he had hurt the trade.

The folly of popular commotion was never better exemplified than in the case of Wilkes, whose patriotism was accidental and mercenary; for his letters to his daughter clearly show the contempt with which he regarded the enthusiasm in his favour, and the object he had in view in exciting hatred against the government. Many of the deluded people who shouted 'Wilkes and liberty' were severely injured

in the riots; and others were subsequently punished by the outraged laws of the country. In a short time the commotion subsided, and the author of them sunk into comparative obscurity, in which he continued until his death in 1797, at the age of seventy.

Wilkes's character, with all its faults, has been blackened much more than it deserved. He was a gentleman of elegant manners, fine taste, and pleasing conversation. Amidst all the vicissitudes of life, he spared some time for the cultivation of classical learning, and, in 1790, published, for private distribution, splendid editions of the Characters of Theophrastus and the Poems of Catullus; he had also made considerable progress in a translation of Anacreon. His Letters and Speeches appeared during his life, in three volumes; he also published a volume of Speeches himself, and, in 1788, a single sheet in defence of his friend, Mr. Hastings, which was by many considered the ablest exculpation of that gentleman which had appeared in print. Many other of his occasional effusions are scattered through the newspapers and magazines of the day, but the principal of them are to be found in a work, in five volumes, entitled, 'The Correspondence of John Wilkes, Esq. with his Friends, with Memoirs of his Life by John Almon.'

## JAMES MURPHY AND JOHN DOGAN,

EXECUTED FOR BEING CONCERNED IN WILKES'S RIOTS.

THE first and most daring mob during these riots was occasioned by the coal-heavers, of which gang were Murphy and Dogan.

They demanded an increase of wages; and, because the sailors in the coal-ships would not second their unlawful and exorbitant

demand, they were attacked, and various dreadful skirmishes ensued.

The rioters then went on board the coal-ships, and obliged the men who were at work to leave off; so that the business of delivering ships in the river was totally at a stand.

They complained that their employers, called undertakers, oppressed them in various shapes; curtailed the wages paid to them, not in money, but in liquor and goods of a bad quality; and that those undertakers got fortunes while they and their families were starving.

One day they proceeded, with colours flying and drums beating, towards the Palace Yard, as they said, to lay their complaints before the king; but were met by the justices, with Sir John Fielding at their head, who, with much entreaty, prevailed on them to return.

On the 12th of June their insolence arrived to such a height that the military was called in to the assistance of the civil power.

The desperadoes even attacked the soldiers, who fired upon them, which killed several rioters, and who, in return, murdered three of their opponents.

Twenty of the leaders were secured, and committed to prison. A monthly publication at the time, on this subject, says, 'The gaols are full of these fellows, who would neither work, nor let others work, so that the business of the river has been greatly obstructed.'

Nothing intimidated the rioters, who for some time paraded the streets in large bodies, armed with cutlasses, bludgeons, and other offensive weapons, crying out 'Five pounds for a sailor's head, and twenty for a master's! We'll cut the lightermen's throats, and murder all the masters, burn their houses, and set fire to their ships.'

In this daring manner they continued to terrify those concerned at the water-side. The military frequently dispersed them; but no sooner were they retired than the

coal-heavers sallied out from their lurking-holes, and continued their riotous practices. The sessions, however, were at hand, and Murphy and Dogan, two of the most active, who had been secured at the affray wherein the soldiers were killed, were convicted of the murders, sentenced to death, and their bodies to be delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

On the morning of their execution, which took place at Tyburn, July the 11th, 1768, a great number of Irish women assembled at Surgeons' Hall, and set up the funeral howl of their country\* upon the bodies being carried into the hall for dissection, pursuant to the sentence; nor would they disperse until they found no hopes of rescuing their 'dear countrymen,' whose death they insisted was a 'big burning shame.'

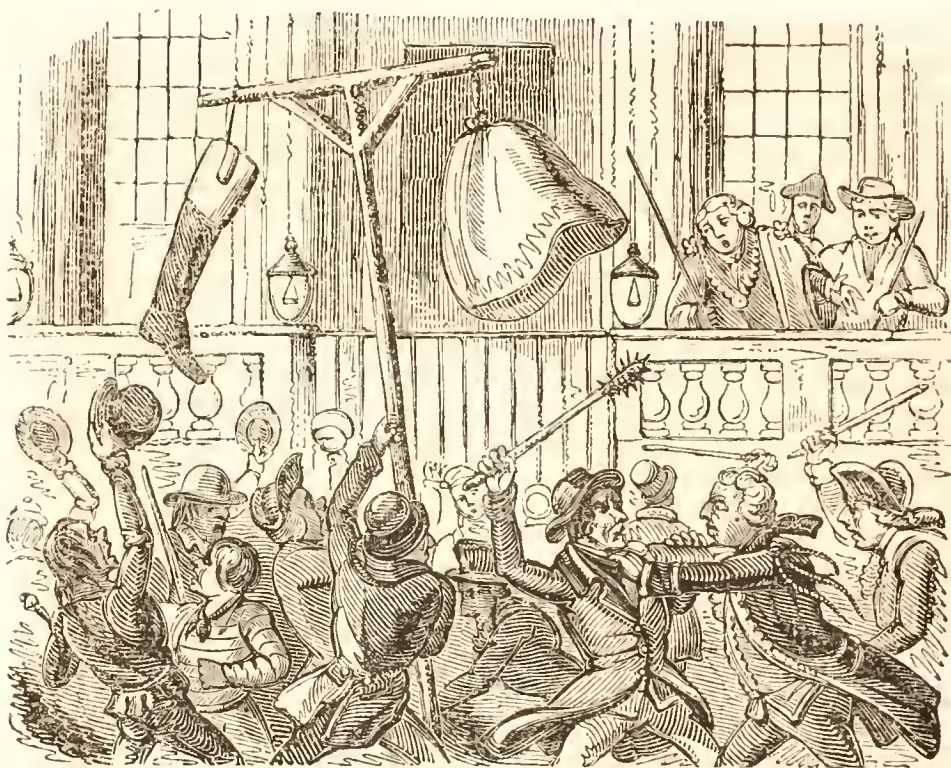
This example intimidated the remainder of the discontented rabble, who were soon glad to be again taken into their former employ.

On the 26th of the same month seven more of the riotous coal-heavers, having been tried, found guilty, and condemned at the Old Bailey, were carried from Newgate to the Sun Tavern Fields, the spot of their riot, and executed pursuant to their sentence.

The whole of the London constables and peace-officers were, by the sheriffs, ordered to attend the execution. A party of the guards was posted in readiness, in case of any attempt to rescue the culprits; but though more than fifty thousand people, on a moderate calculation, were present at the place of execution, no disturbance happened, and the guards never appeared in sight of them.

\* Formerly, in the country parts of Ireland, where a corpse is sometimes carried several miles for interment, the women, as the procession passes on the road, set up a mournful cry, which they call *Keening*—a custom now nearly extinct.





*Hawkins and the Rioters before the Mansion House.*

### WILLIAM HAWKINS AND JOSEPH WILD, INDICTED FOR RIOTING.

AT the sessions of the Old Bailey for July, 1768, William Hawkins and Joseph Wild were tried for assaulting and wounding two of the servants of the lord mayor of London, and for other unlawful acts against the peace of our sovereign lord the king.

On the part of the prosecution the first witness called was Mr. Way, a gentleman who was accidentally passing on the evening of this riot. He deposed that he saw a crowd of people carrying a gibbet, on which hung a boot and a petticoat, and making a stand at the Mansion House; he saw the lord mayor come out, and rush among the people who carried the gibbet, on which an affray began, and he presently heard the words 'Knock him down, knock him down!' At

this instant he saw the prisoner, Hawkins, laying about him with a stick, which he afterwards found was stuck with nails, and he saw him strike one or two people, who proved to be his lordship's servants. They then seized Hawkins, and were dragging him into the Mansion House; but the mob rescued him, and he was making off, when the witness collared him, and, with the assistance of the wounded servants, secured him in the Mansion House.

Philip Pyle swore that, being in waiting upon the lord mayor the night of the riot (the 9th of May, the next day after the outlawry against Wilkes was reversed), he observed a great mob advancing with a gibbet, a boot and a petticoat hanging upon it; and being or-

dered by his lordship to seize it, he gave it a shake, which obliged the mob to quit it; that he was pulling it along, when a man, whom he believed to be the prisoner Hawkins, caught a flambeau out of his hand, and broke his head with it in several places. Dropping the gibbet, he recovered the flambeau, and made a stroke at the assailants (for there were now two or three striking at him), and was endeavoring to retreat for fear of falling, in which case, he said, he must undoubtedly have been murdered, when he received several blows on his head with a stick stuck full of nails, which happened to fly out of the prisoner's, Hawkins, hand, and

his fellow-servant snatched it up. The prisoner then endeavored to defend himself with his hands, but the witness dragged him, in his rage, near twenty yards through the mob; but when he had got him within ten yards of the Mansion House the mob rescued him, and when he was making off Mr. Way collared him, and brought him back.

Thomas Woodward, another servant of the lord mayor, corroborated the evidence of the two former witnesses.

There being no positive proof against the prisoner Wild, he was acquitted; but Hawkins was found guilty, and sentenced to death.

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**ELIZABETH RICHARDSON,**  
EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. PIMLOT.

This unhappy woman was seduced from the precepts of virtue and honour at an early period of life; and, after subsisting some years on the wages of casual prostitution, she was taken into keeping by Mr. Pimlot, an attorney-at-law, who had chambers in Symond's Inn.

Whether she had cause for jealousy is uncertain; but she was inflamed with that passion to a degree of violence, and frequently went to his chambers in the expectation of finding him engaged with some other woman.

On a Sunday evening Mr. Pimlot was engaged with some friends at a house in Fleet Street; and Richardson going to his chambers, and finding him not there, determined to wait till his return. About twelve o'clock Mr. Pimlot entered his chambers, without being perceived by the woman, and went to bed.

In about half an hour she returned to the chambers, and in a most riotous manner insisted upon

being admitted, declaring with horrid imprecations that she would not depart till she had seen Mr. Pimlot, who for some time made no answer; which exasperating her to still greater outrage, she gave vent to her passion in the most profane language, and, after breaking one of the panes of the window, she went towards the passage leading to Chancery Lane; but, turning back, she was met by Mr. Pimlot, who gave her into custody of the watch. She was no sooner taken into custody than, with a sharp-pointed pen-knife, with a blade about two inches long, she struck Mr. Pimlot under the left breast. The watchman said, 'You break the peace, madam, and I must take you to the watch-house.' Immediately after this, Mr. Pimlot, taking the knife from the wound, said, in a faint and tremulous voice, 'Here, watchman, take this knife; she has stabbed me.'

Mr. Pimlot proceeded to the watch-house, being followed by the



constable and his prisoner. He sat down in the constable's chair, and, opening his waistcoat, the blood was seen issuing from his wound; and, leaning down his head, he presently expired, without speaking. The knife was examined, and blood appeared upon the blade.

When she perceived the blood issuing from Mr. Pimlot's wound, she clasped her hands, and exclaimed 'What have I done? O, Mr. Wilson! it was I that did this shocking deed; instantly send for a surgeon—send for a surgeon. I have murdered, I fear I have murdered, my dear Pimlot!' She was immediately sent to New Prison; and her tears, and other passionate expressions of sorrow, proved her to be deeply penetrated by affliction for the crime she had committed.

A watchman was sent for Mr. Minors, a surgeon, in Chancery Lane; but, he being in bed, two of his pupils accompanied the watchman; but upon their arrival they found the gentleman dead.

On the following day the body was opened by Mr. Minors, who found that the heart was penetrated, and that the wound exactly corresponded with the figure of the knife. The coroner's jury being summoned, a verdict of Wilful Murder was found against the prisoner, who was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey; and, being found guilty on the most

indisputable evidence, she was sentenced to be executed on the following Monday.

The time for her execution was prolonged, on account of the sheriffs being obliged to attend the election of members of parliament for the county of Middlesex.

From the time of her committing the murder to that of her death this unhappy woman employed herself in a truly contrite manner, regularly attending public devotions, and at other times engaged in earnest prayer, and in reading such religious books and scriptural passages as were recommended to her perusal. She regretted the wicked course of life she had led, and declared that the crime of spilling innocent blood was insupportably afflicting. She was executed at Tyburn, December 21st, 1768.

The closing scene of this seduced female was a picture of penitence. —After her body had hung the usual time it was carried to Surgeons' Hall for dissection.

Let the untimely fate of Mr. Pimlot, and the disgraceful death of Elizabeth Richardson, remain a dread lesson to each sex. Females, avoid the arts of men! and ye, seducers of innocence, be careful how you form connexions with her who, once ruined, becomes abandoned to misery, and seeks retaliation on the sex by whom she was betrayed!

### JOHN ANDREW MARTIN,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

This malefactor was a native of Norway, and, being bred a seaman, he continued in that capacity several years, during which he gave frequent proofs of being addicted to thieving, and other infamous practices.

At length he quitted the maritime way of life, and came to London, where he married a young woman, by whom he had two children.

Martin had not been long in the metropolis before he determined to commence housebreaker, and



carefully to avoid joining with any accomplices, lest such a measure should lead to a discovery of his guilt.

He hired handsome lodgings in the Minories, and, from his appearance and manner, the people of the house imagined him to be a gentleman of independent fortune. This favorable opinion, however, was frustrated upon his being twice apprehended on suspicion of burglarious practices, though neither of them could be proved against him.

It would be wholly needless to record the numerous felonies of which Martin was guilty, as they were not attended with remarkable circumstances, or perpetrated in such manner as to admit of much variety in relation. We shall therefore confine ourselves to the fact for which he suffered.

Learning that Mr. Valentine Knight, a jeweller, of Noble Street, near Cheapside, constantly kept a stock of valuable articles in his house—that he was confined to his bed, and that the family consisted of the sick man, his wife, a servant maid, an apprentice, and a lodger, named Reynoldson, and his wife, and that the family slept in the upper apartments—he determined to rob the house.

Having provided himself with proper implements, he tore up the flap of the cellar-window, and then, forcing open the door leading to the passage on the ground floor, he easily gained admittance to the parlour, the door of which was fastened by a brass spring-lock and a strong padlock. In the parlour he perceived a bureau, secured by an iron bar, with a strong padlock; and on the bureau a mahogany case, fitted up with small drawers and glass folding-doors. He wrenched the bar from the bureau, and stole thereout divers valuable articles;

and from the glazed case he took three drawers, containing divers sorts of jewellery work.

About three in the morning Mr. Reynoldson alarmed Mrs. Knight, saying he believed robbers had broke into the house. Mrs. Knight presently followed her lodger down stairs; but the villain had escaped, though with a less valuable booty than he would have obtained had he not been interrupted.

Mrs. Knight lodged speedy information of the robbery at Sir John Fielding's office; and handbills, particularizing the stolen effects, were soon distributed among the pawnbrokers and silversmiths in the metropolis and its adjacencies.

About a month after the robbery a discovery took place in the following manner:—Martin called upon Mr. Davis, in the Minories, and offered him for sale seven pair of garnet ear-rings, set in gold, and fifteen pair of gold buttons. Davis desired Martin (with whom he had been long acquainted, though he was wholly ignorant of his villainous practices) to call for an answer at three in the afternoon of the same day; and in the mean time sent his son to a jeweller named Wintle, with a request that he would estimate the value of the goods.

Upon examining the articles, Mr. Wintle concluded them to be part of what had been stolen from Mr. Knight. He immediately carried the goods to Noble Street, and they were identified by Mrs. Knight. Hereupon Mr. Wintle and Mr. Pearce went to Davis's house, and waited till the arrival of Martin, when he was taken into custody, and charged with the robbery, of which he obstinately persisted in declaring himself innocent. A hackney coach being called for conveying the prisoner to Sir John Fieldings'

office, he had no sooner entered the vehicle than he attempted to escape at the opposite door, but was prevented by the constable.

Upon his examination there appeared great reason to believe him guilty, and he was therefore committed to prison, and a warrant granted for searching his lodgings.

Mr. Wintle and other gentlemen attended the search; and the prisoner's apartments were found to contain watches, jewellery work, linen, china, silks, and divers other kinds of effects, to a very great amount. It was his custom to keep the stolen goods some weeks in his possession before offering them for sale, that he might be less liable to detection.

The property being conveyed to Sir John Fielding's office, a great number of shopkeepers and other persons attended, and claimed the several articles that had been stolen from them.

Martin solicited to be admitted an evidence for the crown, alleging that it was in his power to make discoveries that would prove highly beneficial to the public: but his request was denied. He afterwards acknowledged that he had no accomplices, and declared that he had never entertained the idea of preserving his own life by accusing the innocent.

While he was under confinement this unhappy man behaved in a decent and penitent manner, being daily attended by two Lutheran ministers, who remained with him on the morning of his execution from about six o'clock till near nine, when he was called into the Press-yard, where he found several relations waiting to take a last farewell.

He read and prayed alternately in his way to the place of execution, where he addressed the populace, exhorting them strictly to adhere to the principles of honesty, as the means of ensuring substantial happiness. He then sung a psalm, and, having prayed about a quarter of an hour, he suffered the sentence of the law.

John Andrew Martin was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of January, 1769.

Wealth obtained by illegal practices will ever become a torment to the possessor; for he must be in continual apprehension that his infamously acquired property will prove the means of discovering his guilt. Let our readers be apprized that even the scanty wages of honest industry will prove the source of infinitely higher satisfaction than can possibly arise from the utmost profusion gained by a forfeiture of integrity.

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### MOSES ALEXANDER,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE unhappy man, whose memoirs it is our present task to record, was a native of the city of Glasgow, in North Britain. He was scarcely arrived to manhood when he travelled to London; and for several years he carried a pack about the country, retailing different sorts of goods; but linen was the principal article in which he

dealt. He was naturally of an industrious disposition; and his industry procured him success. He made overtures of marriage to a young woman who had two uncles possessed of considerable property; and knowing that they intended to give her a marriage portion, and to make her their heir, he gained credit for a large assortment of linen-

drapery goods, and opened a warehouse on Fish Street Hill, with a view of giving himself consequence with his intended bride and her wealthy relatives.

The young woman's relations, believing Alexander to be in flourishing circumstances, gave their consent to the marriage, which was in a short time solemnized; and soon afterwards he connected himself in partnership with a linen-draper in Holborn, named Nicol, who was a man of unblemished integrity, but encumbered with a numerous family and some pecuniary embarrassments.

Mr. Nicol being perfectly conversant in the wholesale branch of the linen trade, it was agreed that he should travel to Manchester, Glasgow, and other places, for the purpose of purchasing goods. Alexander kept the circumstance of his partnership a profound secret from his wife's relations; but, after he had obtained from them several considerable sums, the matter was divulged in the following manner:—

One of his wife's uncles happened to be in Alexander's counting-house, when a bill was brought for acceptance, payable by Alexander and Nicol. Hereupon the gentleman upbraided Alexander for concealing from him so material a circumstance as that of his being connected in partnership: the other declared that no partnership subsisted; that Nicol was no more than his servant, and had inserted his own name in the draft either through mistake or villainy.

Mr. Nicol returned to London in about two months, when Alexander denied his having a right to part of the business, and said he would submit the decision of the case to the Court of Chancery.

Though articles of co-partner-

ship had been regularly executed, Mr. Nicol was averse to involving himself in an expensive suit of law, which he feared his circumstances would not enable him to support; and therefore he declined engaging in a tedious contention with a man who had treated him in so injurious a manner.

The difference between Nicol and Alexander took place in the summer of 1765; and about eight months afterwards the latter, who had quitted his house on Fish Street Hill, and opened a warehouse in Tooley Street, Southwark, failed to the amount of about sixty thousand pounds; and it was then publicly known that he was the principal of a great number of retail shops established in different parts of the town, under a variety of names; and it was considered as an extraordinary circumstance that, with a capital so very inadequate to the extensive trade into which he had launched, he should be able to support his credit for so long a period: but the public surprise abated when it was discovered that he had chiefly depended on the circulation of notes of hand and bills of exchange.

Some time having elapsed, he engaged again in business, and a second failure took place, though for a sum greatly inferior to the claims of his former creditors.

He had now no expectations of assistance from his wife's relations; but he contrived means for establishing himself again in business, which he was the better enabled to carry on by means of notes of hand being frequently lent him by a man named Brown.

Brown was in France towards the end of the year 1768; and about that time he became connected with one Aked, of Leeds, in Yorkshire, whose notes he passed for the support of his drooping cre-



dit in the manner that he had formerly negotiated those of Brown.

Alexander had borrowed eighty pounds on a note of Aked's, indorsed in the name of Brown, for ninety-eight pounds, six shillings; and it not being paid when due, he gave Mr. Fryar, who had advanced the money, another note, as collateral security, assuring him that in a few days the notes should be redeemed.

At length Fryar accused Alexander of forgery; and he was committed to Newgate. He was acquitted on indictments found against him for two other offences of a similar nature; but, though several witnesses swore the writing was not the prisoner's, he was convicted of forging the indorsement on the bill for ninety-eight pounds, six shillings. Brown would have proved the most material witness; and, had he been in England, the prisoner would, perhaps, have derived great advantage from his evidence.

The behaviour of Alexander in Newgate was such as could on no account be disapproved in a man under his unhappy circumstances; and he entertained strong hopes of being considered as an object of the royal mercy. From a variety of circumstances great numbers of people believed him to be innocent of the fact; and very powerful interest was made for preserving his life.

On the morning appointed for his execution he was respited for a week: before the expiration of that time, and it being represented that messengers were gone to France in search of Brown, he was respited for a week longer.

Brown's affidavit was brought from France, expressing that he wrote the indorsement that Alexander had been charged with forging. The affidavit being carried to

his majesty at Richmond, he was pleased to refer the matter to Lord Weymouth; but his lordship's interference could not be obtained, he being then at his country seat.

The sheriffs attended at Newgate the next morning, in order to conduct the prisoner to the place of execution. He informed them that his friends were gone to Richmond, to make a second application to the king; and they consented to defer their melancholy office till the issue of the intercession should be known.

No further respite being obtained, the prisoner was taken from Newgate about half past twelve o'clock, attended by a dissenting minister, with whom he prayed in an earnest and devout manner. At the place of execution his behaviour was decent and composed; and he persisted in the declaration of his innocence till the last moments of his life.

Moses Alexander was executed at Tyburn about half past two in the afternoon of the 9th of August, 1769.

The imprudence of Alexander in launching into a trade too extensive for his capital to support produced a train of difficulties that ended in an ignominious death. His conduct in regard to Mr. Nicol proved him to be divested of all principles of integrity; and certain it is that in several instances he was guilty of forgery, and other unjustifiable practices; but whether he committed the offence of which he was convicted is a question that we pretend not to decide.

We are aware that, if legal decisions were to be frequently reversed, the reverence that is due to the law would be highly endangered; but in cases of a doubtful nature reason and humanity will justify the suspension of a convict's sentence till

his criminality shall be more clearly proved. We mean not to insinuate the least reflection against the sheriffs, who acted perfectly consistent with the duties of their office ; but we cannot avoid observing that it was a most unfortunate circumstance for Alexander (because, had Brown personally acknowledged the indorsement on the day of trial,

an acquittal must have necessarily ensued) that, in the absence of the secretary of state, one or more of the judges had not power to determine whether Brown's affidavit was of sufficient authority to leave the convict's fate in suspense till his guilt or innocence could be more satisfactorily ascertained.

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### WILLIAM TAUNTON,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MRS. PHIPPS.

THIS malefactor was a native of Gloucestershire, and brought up as a husbandman, which employment he quitted to live as ostler at an inn at Tewkesbury, in which capacity he continued several years, and then came to London.

After this he was engaged in the service of Mrs. Phipps, a widow, who kept the Lamb Inn at Colnbrook. Though she was the mother of several children, yet a scandalous intimacy soon ensued between her and Taunton, and they lived together some years as husband and wife ; and strangers calling at the inn presumed that he was the landlord, from the airs of authority which he assumed.

Miserable, however, was this connexion in its progress, and fatal to both parties in its event. Continual quarrels arose between them, and frequent blows were the consequence of their reiterated disputes ; and this way of life, as might be reasonably imagined, greatly injured the character of Mrs. Phipps, and occasioned the loss of great part of her business.

After a residence of some time, their situation becoming unhappy, Taunton went down to his friends in Gloucestershire, with an intention, as it was thought, to have remained there ; but he had not been long in the country when he re-

ceived a letter from Mrs. Phipps, earnestly inviting his return, alleging, as a reason for it, that she was unhappy without his company.

The ill-fated man was weak enough to return on this invitation ; but the connexion had not been long renewed before their quarrels became as frequent as before, and proceeded even to a greater degree of violence, till the neighbours were alarmed at their inconsistent conduct, and what began in illicit love ended in murder.

After repeated disagreements, they sat down to supper one evening in apparent reconciliation ; when Mrs. Phipps asked Mr. Taunton if she should pare him a cucumber, or would he eat it with the rind on. These words were scarcely pronounced when Taunton seized the kitchen poker, and told her to lay hold of one end of it. She wondered at this command, and asked him why it must be complied with. He still insisted on her taking hold of one end of it : on which she said ' If I must have it, let me have the clean end ; but what am I to do with it ? '—His answer was ' You must knock out my brains.' She replied ' No, Taunton, I will not hurt a hair of your head.' To this he said ' If you will not knock my brains out, I will knock your brains out ;' and no sooner had he

uttered this horrid expression than he struck her on the head with such force as almost to lay her skull bare; after which he gave her a blow on the face, which cut her in the most terrible manner.

A surgeon, being sent for, dressed her wounds, and, addressing himself to Taunton, told him that, if he had murdered her, he would certainly have been hanged. The offender acknowledged that he knew that must have been the consequence; but desired the surgeon to take all proper care of the wounded woman.

The injury took place on the 30th of July, and the surgeon attended the wounded woman for five days; at the end of which time she said to her daughter, 'Peggy, you may go out of the room, for I want to sleep.' During the absence of the daughter Taunton entered the room, and struck Mrs. Phipps so forcibly on the neck with a hatchet, that her head hung over one side of the bed.

The horrid murder being at length committed, Taunton threw down the instrument of death, and went to drink at a public house at about a mile distant; and the surgeon coming soon after to attend his duty, and finding Mrs. Phipps dead, dispatched the ostler and another man in search of the murderer. It was not long before they found him, and, bringing him back to Colnbrook, the surgeon hinted to him that the most fatal consequences would probably ensue from the crime of which he had been guilty.

The coroner's jury, being summoned on the occasion, gave a verdict that Taunton had been guilty of the wilful murder of Mrs. Phipps; on which he was taken before a magistrate, who committed him to New Prison.

In this place he was visited by

many persons, who conversed with him on his unhappy situation; and one of them hinting his fears that he was guilty, Taunton acknowledged that he was, and expressed his sorrow for the crime; but said it was now too late to remedy the evil.

His friend then inquired what could induce him to commit such an atrocious crime; to which he answered that she had traduced his character, by telling lies of him in the neighbourhood.

Being brought to trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, he produced several persons who deposed that he had been, at times, so much out of his mind, that he was not master of his own conduct: and one of these in particular swore that he had at one time attempted to destroy himself by drowning, and at another by hanging; but this plea being thought unsatisfactory by the jury, he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

After conviction he gave the fullest proof of being in possession of his intellectual faculties; exercising himself in the offices of devotion, and receiving the sacrament from the hands of the Ordinary of Newgate.

He was tried on Saturday, the 9th of September, 1769, and ordered for execution on the Monday following. A most extraordinary shower of rain falling that morning, he was taken from Newgate in a hackney coach, the Ordinary attending him, and the executioner riding behind; and in this manner he was conveyed to the place of death.

On his arrival at the fatal tree a person who had formerly known him went into the cart, and assisted him in his devotion. After the body had hung the usual time it was cut down, and carried to Surgeons' Hall for dissection.

This malefactor suffered at Ty-



burn on the 11th of September, 1769.

It is very seldom that we hear of unmarried persons living together as man and wife with any tolerable degree of happiness; and how, indeed, is it to be expected they should?—Those, who have mutual reason to reproach each other with their crimes, will hardly fail to avail themselves of every opportunity of doing so; for the guilty mind conceives that it lifts a load from its own breast when it seeks to criminate another.

From the whole of this narrative we ought to learn that there is no

happiness in this life equal to that which is to be found in the married state. Trilling difficulties may occur; trifling differences may arise between the married pair; but their mutual interest, and their mutual love, will soon reconcile all differences, and overcome all difficulties. The vow which has been made at the altar will perpetually recur to the honest mind:—the man will consider himself as obliged to the woman who once honored him with her hand; nor will the woman deem herself less obliged to the man who undertook to be her guardian and protector for life.



*The Earl of Eglington shot by Campbell.*

## MUNGO CAMPBELL,

CONVICTED OF KILLING THE EARL OF EGLINGTON.

THE game-laws, the last badge of the feudal system, and the only remaining statute repugnant to the boasted freedom of an Englishman,

still remain a rod in the hands of the rich, to keep in awe their fellow-men, born free as themselves.

Well may the Americans, in their

exultation on acquiring true liberty, point the finger of scorn at the cultivator of land in England, who dares not to destroy the spoiler of his harvest. The partridge, fattened on his corn, and the hare, encroaching on his very garden, cropping the tender plants raised for his more immediate support, must not, in their plunder, be disturbed; for the very act of chasing them from their depredations, observed by some lordly dependent, more tyrannical than the lord himself, will be construed into an offence against the game-laws, and the free-born Englishman cast into a loathsome prison, prosecuted, and fined, often beyond his power to satisfy, and thus families sink in ruin!

The citizens of London enjoyed, in former times, an exemption, as a matter of favour, from the game-laws then in force.

King Henry I. granted them a charter, in which are these words: 'And the citizens of London may have their chases to hunt, as well and as fully as their ancestors have had, (that is to say) in Chiltre,\* and in Middlesex, and in Surrey.'

This charter was confirmed by King Henry II. Richard I. John, and Henry III. and enjoyed by the said citizens until the reign of Charles II. That thoughtless—the citizens may add ungrateful—monarch, after being in a great measure restored to the throne by the citizens of London, deprived them of this most ancient right.

That royal grant, which existed through the commotions of the land caused by the contending powers of York and Lancaster, and through the civil wars of his father, Charles rescinded by an act, which deprived them of a privilege enjoyed above five hundred years. This act

is called 'The Qualification Act;' and, though it does not notice the ancient grant of Henry I. yet it virtually repeals it.

It was Mr. Campbell's misfortune to live adjoining to the estate of the Earl of Eglington; and though he was possessed of an estate of the value of sixty pounds a year, then a little independence in Scotland, yet it was forty less than the law estimates a man to be worth in order to qualify him to kill game.

The much-lamented Mr. Campbell was descended from the noble family of Argyle, and born at Ayre, in Scotland. His father was an eminent merchant, had been mayor of the town, and a justice of the peace: but, having no less than twenty-four children, and meeting with many losses in his commercial connexions, it was impossible for him to make any adequate provision for his family; so that, on his death, the relations took care of the children, and educated them in the liberal manner which is customary in Scotland.

The unhappy subject of this narrative was protected by an uncle, who gave him a learned education: but this generous friend dying when the youth was about eighteen years of age, left him sixty pounds, and earnestly recommended him to the care of his other relations.

The young man was a finished scholar, yet seemed averse to the making choice of any of the learned professions. His attachment appeared to be to the military life, in which line many of his ancestors had most gloriously distinguished themselves.

Mr. Campbell now entered as a cadet in the royal regiment of Scotch Greys, then commanded by his relation, General Campbell, and served during two campaigns, at

\* A part of Hertfordshire, near St. Albans.

his own expense, in the fond hope of military preferment.

After the battle of Dettingen, at which he assisted, he had an opportunity of being appointed quartermaster, if he could have raised one hundred pounds; but this place was bestowed on another person, while Campbell was making fruitless application for the money.

Thus disappointed of what he thought a reasonable expectation, he quitted the army, and went into Scotland, where he arrived at the juncture that the rebels had quitted Edinburgh, in 1745, Lord Loudon having then the command of the loyal Highlanders, who manifested so much heroism in the suppression of the rebellion; and, Mr. Campbell having the honour to be related to his lordship, he went and fought under him with a bravery that did equal credit to his loyalty and courage.

Not long after the decisive battle of Culloden, Lord Loudon procured his kinsman to be appointed an officer of the excise; and prevailed on the commissioners to station him in the shire of Ayre, that he might have the happiness of residing near his friends and relations.

In the discharge of this new duty Mr. Campbell behaved with strict integrity to the crown, yet with so much civility as to conciliate the affections of all those with whom he had any transactions. He married when he was somewhat advanced in life; and so unexceptionable was his whole conduct, that all the nobility and gentry in the neighbourhood (the Earl of Eglington excepted) gave him permission to kill game on their estates. However, he was very moderate in the use of this indulgence, seldom shooting but with a view to gratify a friend with a present; hardly ever for his own emolument.

Mr. Campbell had a singular attachment to fishing; and a river in Lord Eglington's estate affording the finest fish in that country, he would willingly have angled there; but, his lordship being as strict with regard to his fish as the game, Campbell, unwilling to offend him, gave away his fishing-tackle, which was excellent in its kind. He was likewise in possession of a fine pointer, which he sold; but would not part with his gun, which produced him the greatest pleasure of his life.

Campbell being in search of smugglers, and having his gun with him, was crossing part of Lord Eglington's estate, when, a hare starting up, he shot her. His lordship hearing the report of the gun, and being informed that Campbell had fired it, he sent a servant to command him to come to the seat.

Campbell obeyed the disagreeable summons, but was treated very cavalierly by his lordship, who even descended to call him by names of contempt. The other apologized for his conduct, which he said arose from the sudden starting of the hare; and declared that he had no design of giving offence. This might have been a sufficient apology to any other man than Lord Eglington.

A man named Bartleymore was among the servants of Lord Eglington, and was a favorite of his lordship; and this man dealt largely in contraband goods. Mr. Campbell, passing along the sea-shore, met Bartleymore with a cart containing eighty gallons of rum, which he seized as contraband; and the rum was condemned, but the cart was restored, as being the property of Lord Eglington.

In this affair it will appear evident that Mr. Campbell did not exceed his duty; but Bartleymore



was so incensed against him, that he contrived many tales to his disadvantage, and at length engaged his lordship's passions so far, that he conceived a more unfavorable opinion of Campbell than he had hitherto done. In the mean time the latter had no consciousness of having given offence by the seizure of the rum, which was made only in discharge of his duty; and therefore he was wholly regardless of the common report of Lord Eglington's enmity to him.

About ten in the morning of the 24th of October, 1769, Campbell took his gun, and went out with another officer, with a view to detect smugglers. Mr. Campbell took with him a license for shooting, which had been given him by Dr. Hunter, though they had no particular design of killing any game, but intended to shoot a woodcock if they should see one.

They crossed a small part of Lord Eglington's estate, in order to reach the sea-shore, where they intended to walk. When they arrived at this spot it was near noon, and Lord Eglington came up in his coach, attended by Mr. Wilson, a carpenter, who was working for him, and followed by four servants on horseback. On approaching the coast his lordship met Bartleymore, who told him that there were some poachers at a distance. Mr. Wilson would have endeavored to draw off his lordship's notice from such a business; but Bartleymore saying that Campbell was among the poachers, Lord Eglington quitted his coach, and, mounting a led horse, rode to the spot, where he saw Campbell and the other officer, whose name was Brown. His lordship said 'Mr. Campbell, I did not expect to have found you so soon again on my grounds, after your promise when you shot the hare.'

He then demanded Campbell's gun, which the latter declared he would not part with.

Lord Eglington now rode towards him; while Campbell retreated, with his gun presented, desiring him to keep at a distance. Still, however, his lordship advanced, smiling, and said 'Are you going to shoot me?' Campbell replied 'I will, if you do not keep off.' Hereupon Lord Eglington called to his servants to bring him a gun, which one of them took from the coach, and delivered to another to carry to their master.

In the interim Lord Eglington, leading his horse, approached Mr. Campbell, and demanded his gun; but the latter would not deliver it. The peer then quitted his horse's bridle, and continued advancing, while Campbell still retired, though in an irregular direction, and pointed his gun towards his pursuer.

At length Lord Eglington came so near him, that Campbell said 'I beg your pardon, my lord, but I will not deliver my gun to any man living; therefore keep off, or I will certainly shoot you.' At this instant Bartleymore, advancing, begged Campbell to deliver his gun to Lord Eglington: but the latter answered he would not, for 'he had a right to carry a gun.'

His lordship did not dispute his *general* right, but said that he could not have *any* to carry it on his estate without his permission. Campbell again begged pardon, and still continued retreating, but with his gun in his hand, and preparing to fire in his own defence. While he was thus walking backwards his heel struck against a stone, and he fell, when he was about the distance of three yards from his pursuer. Lord Eglington, observing him fall on his back, stepped forward, as if he would have passed by Camp-

bell's feet, which the latter observing, reared himself on his elbow, and lodged the contents of his piece in the left side of his lordship's body.

At this critical juncture the servant above mentioned brought the gun from the coach, and Campbell would have wrested it from his hands, but that Bartleymore came up just at the very instant; and at this moment Lord Eglington, putting his hand to his wound, said 'I am killed.'

A contest now ensued, during which Bartleymore struck Campbell repeatedly, which being observed by Lord Eglington, he called out 'Do not use him ill.' Campbell, being secured, was conducted to the wounded man, then lying on the ground, who said 'Mr. Campbell, I would not have shot you;' but Campbell made no answer.

'My parks, my walks, my manors that I had,  
Even now forsake me; and of all my lands  
Is nothing left me but my body's length.'

SHAKESPEARE.

Lord Eglington's seat was about three miles from the place where this fatal accident happened; and his servants put him into the carriage to convey him home. In the mean time Campbell's hands were tied behind him; and he was conducted to the town of Salcotes, the place of his former station as an exciseman.

The persons who escorted him asked him several questions; the answers to which were afterwards (very ungenerously, as we conceive) adduced on his trial, as collateral evidence of his guilt. Among other things, he acknowledged that he would rather part with his life than his gun; and that, sooner than have it taken from him, he would shoot any peer of the realm.

Lord Eglington dying, after lan-

guishing ten hours, Mr. Campbell was, on the following day, committed to the prison of Ayre, and the next month removed to Edinburgh, in preparation for his trial before the High Court of Justiciary; previous to which his case was discussed by counsel, and the following arguments were adduced in his favour. It was said, in the first place,

'That the gun went off by accident, and therefore it could be no more than casual homicide.

'Secondly—That, supposing it had been fired with an intention to kill, yet the act was altogether justifiable, because of the violent provocation he had received; and he was doing no more than defending his life and property.

'Thirdly—It could not be murder, because it could not be supposed that Mr. Campbell had any malice against his lordship, and the action itself was too sudden to admit of deliberation.'

The counsel for the prosecution urged in answer, in the first place,

'That it was certain malice was implied, in consequence of Campbell's presenting the gun to his lordship, and telling him that, unless he kept off, he would shoot him.

'Secondly—That there was no provocation given by the earl besides words, and words shall not be construed a provocation in law.

'Thirdly—The earl had a right to seize his gun, in virtue of several acts of parliament, which are the established laws of the land, to which every subject is obliged to be obedient.'

After repeated debates between the lawyers of Scotland, a day was at length appointed for the trial, which commenced on the 27th of February, 1770, before the High Court of Justiciary; and, the jury

having found Mr. Campbell guilty, he was sentenced to die.

The Lord Justice Clerk, before he pronounced the solemn sentence, addressed himself to the convict, advising him to make the most devout preparation for death, as all hopes of pardon would be precluded, from the nature of his offence.

Through the whole course of the trial the prisoner's behaviour was remarkable for calmness and serenity; and, when it was ended, he bowed to the Court with the utmost composure, but said not a single word in extenuation of his crime.

On his return to prison he was visited by several of his friends, among whom he behaved with ap-

parently decent cheerfulness; and, retiring to his apartment, he begged the favour of a visit from them on the following day; but in the morning of the 28th of February, 1770, he was found dead, hanging to the end of a form which he had set upright, and a silk handkerchief fastened round his neck.

The following lines were found upon the floor, close to the body:

' Farewell, vain world! I've had enough  
of thee,  
And now am careless what thou say'st of  
me:  
Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I  
fear:  
My cares are past; my heart lies easy  
here.  
What faults they find in me take care to  
shun;  
And look at home—enough is to be done.'

## JOSEPH BARETTI,

TRIED FOR THE MURDER OF EVAN MORGAN.

As this blameless foreigner had the misfortune to deprive a fellow-creature, though a vicious one, of existence, he claims a place in our pages; but, as he was a man of learning and virtue, we rejoice in having to record him only as the defender of his own life against the attacks of unprincipled ruffians.

Joseph Baretti was born at Turin, in Italy, in 1716. His father, an architect of some eminence, gave him a good education, and a small fortune, which he gambled away at faro. This imprudence reduced him, as he afterwards expressed it, to subsist by his wits; and from necessity he became an author.

Of the early part of his life we know little. In 1750 he came to England, and by diligent study soon acquired a complete knowledge of our language, in which he wrote and spoke with a correctness and fluency seldom attained by a foreigner. He supported himself by

teaching the Italian language, and in 1753 published his first work—a defence of the poetry of his native country, which had been unjustly aspersed by the cynical Voltaire. About the same time accident brought him acquainted with the celebrated Dr. Johnson, with whom he formed an intimacy which endured through life.

Through the recommendation of the doctor he was introduced to many families of distinction, and seems to have spent much of his time with the Thrals. As he possessed nothing but what his industry enabled him to obtain, he was under the necessity of exerting himself, and his efforts were not unsuccessful. What his writings and tuition procured him, his economy made sufficient; and through his whole life he was never accused of meanness or servility.

In London his writings obtained him both money and reputation;



and, as he experienced much kindness, he felt much gratitude: and, having resolved to return to his native place, he expressed the overflowings of his heart, on leaving this country, in an apostrophe of great feeling and eloquence.

He left London in 1760, and travelled on his way home through Spain and Portugal, keeping a journal, after the manner recommended by Dr. Johnson, which, on its publication, gave great satisfaction, being the most entertaining that had at that time been given to the world.

He settled in Italy for a short time, and published a literary paper of much merit; but, as he was acute and satirical, it raised him so many enemies, that, after a stay of six years, he thought it advisable to quit that country, and again visit England.

After his return he published several literary works, and made various excursions abroad. He particularly attended Dr. Johnson and the Thrale family to Paris; and in February, 1769, he made a tour through Spain, from which he had but just returned when an accident befell him which gives him a place in our Calendar.

At the Old Bailey sessions for November, 1769, Mr. Baretti was indicted for the wilful murder of Evan Morgan. As the particulars of this case are fully given in his own defence, we shall insert it, premising that every word in it was previously and satisfactorily substantiated by the witnesses for the prosecution.

‘On Friday, the 6th of October,’ says Mr. Baretti, ‘I spent the whole day at home, correcting my “Italian and English Dictionary,” which is actually reprinting and working off; and upon another book in four volumes, which is to be published in

February next, and has been advertised in the newspapers. I went a little after four to the club of royal academicians in Soho, where I stopped about half an hour, waiting for my friends, and warming myself in the club-room.

‘Upon nobody’s coming, I went to the Orange Coffee-house, to see if a letter was come for me (for my letters come there); but there was none. I went back to go to the club, and, going hastily up the Haymarket, there was a woman at a door: they say there were two, but I took notice of but one, as I hope God will save me; there might have been two, though I only saw one; that is a fact. There was a woman eight or ten yards from the corner of Panton Street, and she clapped her hands with such violence about my private parts, that it gave me great pain. This I instantly resented, by giving her a blow on the hand, with a few angry words. The woman got up directly, raised her voice, and, finding by my pronunciation that I was a foreigner, she called me several bad names, in a most contumelious strain; among which damned Frenchman and a woman-hater were the most audible.

‘I had not quite turned the corner before a man made me turn back, by giving me a blow with his fist, and asking me how I dare strike a woman; another pushed him against me, and pushed me off the pavement; then three or four more joined them. I wonder I did not fall from the high step which is there. The path-way is much raised from the coach-way. A great number of people surrounded me presently, many beating me, and all damning me on every side, in a most frightful manner. I was a Frenchman in their opinion, which made me apprehensive I

must expect no favour nor protection, but all outrage and blows.

‘There is generally a great puddle in the corner of Panton Street, even when the weather is fine; but that day it had rained incessantly, which made it very slippery. I could plainly perceive my assailants wanted to throw me into the puddle, where I might be trampled on; so I cried out “Murder!” There was a space in the circle, from whence I ran into Panton Street, and endeavored to get into the foot-way. I was in the greatest horror, lest I should run against some stones, as I have such bad eyes. I could not run so fast as my pursuers, so that they were upon me, continually beating and pushing me, some of them attempting to catch me by the hair-tail: if this had happened I had been certainly a lost man. I cannot absolutely fix the time and place where I first struck. I remember, somewhere in Panton Street, I gave a quick blow to one who beat off my hat with his fist.

‘When I was in Oxendon Street, fifteen or sixteen yards from the Haymarket, I stopped, and faced about. My confusion was great; and, seeing a shop open, I ran into it for protection, quite spent with fatigue. I am certainly sorry for the man; but he owed his death to his own daring impetuosity. Three men came into the shop; one of them cried to me to surrender myself to him, who was a constable. I asked them if they were honest men, and friends; they said ‘Yes.’ I put up my knife, desired them to arrest me, begged they would send for a coach, and take me to Sir John Fielding.

‘I appeal to them how I behaved when I surrendered, and how thankful I was for their kind protection. Sir John heard what I and

the men had to say. They sent me into a room below, from whence I dispatched a man to the club in Gerrard Street, when Sir Joshua Reynolds and other gentlemen came to me.

‘A messenger was dispatched to the Middlesex Hospital, where they said Morgan was carried. A surgeon came, and took his oath that Morgan was in danger. Sir John committed me to Tothill Fields’ Bridewell. Two gentlemen, as well as the constable, can witness to my behaviour when the coachman lost his way, which forced us to alight in the mire and darkness, in order to find the way to Tothill Fields’ Bridewell. I humbly conceive this will show I had no intention of escaping. That woeful night I passed without rest.

‘My face had been observed to be hurt while I was at Sir John Fielding’s; and the constable was the first who took notice of a blow I had received on my chin. But, when the heat and fear had subsided, I found a great pain in divers parts of my body. Mr. Molini and Mr. Low, being with me, desired me to let them see what was the matter with my back, which I complained of. I stripped, and they saw several bruises.

‘This, my lord, and gentlemen of the jury, is the best account I can give of my unfortunate accident: for what is done in two or three minutes, in fear and terror, is not to be minutely described; and the Court and the jury are to judge. I hope your lordship, and every person present, will think that a man of my age, character, and way of life, would not spontaneously quit my pen, to engage in an outrageous tumult. I hope it will easily be conceived that a man almost blind could not but be seized with terror on such a sudden

attack as this. I hope it will be seen that my knife was neither a weapon of offence or defence; I wear it to carve fruit and sweetmeats, and not to kill my fellow-creatures.

‘It is a general custom in France not to put knives upon the table, so that even ladies wear them in their pockets for general use. I have continued to wear it after my return, because I have found it occasionally convenient. Little did I think such an event would ever have happened. Let this trial turn out as favorable as my innocence may deserve, still my regret will endure as long as life shall last.

‘A man who has lived full fifty years, and spent most of that time in a studious manner, I hope will not be supposed to have voluntarily engaged in so desperate an affair. I beg leave, my lord and gentlemen, to add one thing more:—Equally confident of my own innocence, and English discernment to trace out truth, I did resolve to waive the privilege granted to foreigners by the laws of this kingdom: nor was my motive a compliment to this nation—my motive was my life and honour; that it should not be thought I received undeserved favour from a jury,

part my own country. I chose to be tried by a jury of this country; for, if my honour is not saved, I cannot much wish for the preservation of my life. I will wait for the determination of this awful Court with that confidence, I hope, which innocence has a right to obtain. So God bless you all.’

In his defence he had several persons who deposed to the attack upon him, and the frequency of similar outrages in the Haymarket. Mr. Beaucherk, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Fitzherbert, Mr. Garriek, Mr. Burke, Dr. Goldsmith, and several others, bore testimony to the quietness and humanity of his general character. Their evidence, added to the bad reputation of his prosecutors, impressed the Court in his favour; and he was acquitted both of the murder and manslaughter, the verdict being ‘Self-defence.’

After this unpleasant affair he again sat down to his studies; but, relaxing in his former industry, his pecuniary affairs became embarrassed—a circumstance which, it is said, hastened his dissolution, which took place May the 5th, 1789. He died much regretted by a large circle of acquaintance.

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CHARLES DAVID MORGAN, DAVID MORGAN, WILLIAM SPIGGOT, WILLIAM WALTER EVAN, WILLIAM MORRIS, AND DAVID LEWELLIN,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF MR. POWELL.

This was a murder of so unprovoked, premeditated, daring, and cruel a nature, that every reader must be shocked at the recital. For a man to have his house beset by a troop of villains, for the sole purpose of assassinating him, in a country famed for laws and the protection of persons and property, surprised every individual

of the nation; and each circumstance connected with this dreadful tale serves to increase its horror.

This crime was premeditated by one William Williams, a mercer, at Llandovery, in Carmarthenshire; and there is too much reason to fear that the wife consented to the murder of the husband: at all events, the accounts of the



transaction would warrant such suspicion.

It appeared that William Powell, Esq. a gentleman of good estate, resided at Glanareath, in the parish of Llangaddock, in Carmarthenshire, in Wales. For some time he lived on bad terms with his wife, to whom he allowed a separate maintenance of one hundred pounds a year, and placed the children at a boarding-school near London. Mrs. Powell (a fatal step, too often taken by repudiated wives) incessantly railed against her husband, and, opening her complaints to Williams, urged him to assist her in taking away the children from under their father's care. This infatuated man accordingly accompanied Mrs. Powell to the school; and they had address enough to prevail upon the master to give them up the children, which Williams immediately placed into another, pointed out by the mother.

Mr. Powell being soon apprized of these proceedings, he applied for his children; but their new master replied that he had received them from Mr. Williams, and that to him alone could he deliver them.

The Court of King's Bench was now moved for an habeas corpus, and Williams was served with a rule to show cause 'Why he should not deliver up the children to the father?' but of this serious proceeding Williams took no notice, until he was served with an attachment for a contempt of Court.

This writ being sent to the sheriff for execution, Williams absconded, and formed the diabolical determination of revenging Mr. Powell's proceedings against him in the Court by his death. Failing

in different attempts to shoot him, this remorseless villain tampered with a number of poor and ignorant Welchmen, to assist him in the horrid deed.

This gang, according to the confession of one of them, consisted, altogether, of fourteen, of the following description :

William Williams, the instigator, of Llandovery, escaped.

Charles David Morgan, labourer, executed.

William Charles Morgan, his son, acquitted.

William Spiggot, a barber, executed.

William Morris, a saddler, executed.

John Spiggot, a servant, brother to William, acquitted.

William Walter Evans, labourer, executed.

David Morgan, an itinerant tinker, executed.

Walter Evan, his apprentice, executed.

William Thomas,\* a glover, admitted evidence for the crown.

Thomas Drayn, labourer, escaped.

John Isaac, ditto, escaped.

Morgan James, a pedlar, escaped; and

Another ruffian, called Captain Bowen, of Kel-y-Cwm, escaped.

This horrid gang, in the evening, when Mr. Powell was sitting with his family, broke into his house in disguise, and murdered him with a ferocious cruelty too shocking to relate.

The trial of that part of this gang who were apprehended came on at the city of Hereford, where they were removed by writ of ha-

\* This man soon met the fate of his companions, whom he now appeared against, as evidence for the public; for we find, in a note of Welch Criminal Records, that on the 18th of September, 1773, little more than three years after the murder of Mr. Powell, this identical William Thomas was hanged at Pensarn, in Carmarthenshire, for a highway robbery.

beas corpus, before Sir Joseph Yates, one of the judges of the Court of King's Bench.

A case so very extraordinary, in fact scarcely paralleled in the annals of criminal history, drew together the people from all parts of the county.

Charles David Morgan, David Morgan, William Spiggot, William Walter Evan, William Morris, and David Lewellin, were found guilty: the evidence did not reach some, and the remainder of this horrid gang escaped from justice.

The following speech of the judge, on passing sentence, will amply show the nature of their crime:—

‘You (naming the prisoners) have been tried, and, upon evidence that leaves not the smallest doubt, have now been found guilty of the most wicked, the most savage, the most horrid murder that ever stained the hand of man—a cool, deliberate, preconcerted assassination! without a quarrel to provoke, without a passion to incite, without a motive to tempt you but the blackest that ever disgraced human nature—a willingness to earn the wages of iniquity, the execrable wages of a hireling assassin. And how hardened, how determined, were the preparations you made for that bloody work! day after day projecting the design, till at last, deliberately putting on the ruffian's frock, and blackened face, you daringly entered the doors of the deceased; and, in his own house, murdered him, most inhumanly murdered him, with every circumstance of savage barbarity! yet he had never done the least injury to you, not the smallest provocation of offence.

‘That unfortunate man is now in his grave, and in two days you will be as cold and lifeless as he. But how different will be your de-

parture! By your bloody hand he was wickedly murdered. You for that murder will justly die. It is now my duty to pronounce that dreadful sentence; an office which to me is ever painful. I feel for the melancholy condition you are in, who are so soon to die by the hands of justice; but how little did you feel for the poor man you murdered!

‘Friday next, the day after tomorrow, will in this world be your last: but think of the more dreadful day to come, when you will appear before a far more awful tribunal, before the Great Judge of all mankind.

‘Think how you will stand before him, covered over with the blood of your fellow-creature, whom you so wickedly murdered, most daringly presuming to destroy that life which the Almighty gave, and which He alone had a right to take away.

‘You have now but two days to live, and in that short time have much work to do. I therefore most earnestly entreat you to employ every moment that is left you in imploring God's mercy and forgiveness, that your soul may escape that dreadful punishment which lasts through all eternity. At this bar you must expect no mercy.

‘The sentence of the law will most certainly be executed upon you; and that sentence is, ‘That you must be taken from hence to the place from whence you came; and from thence, on Friday next, to the place of execution; that you be there hanged by the neck till you are dead; and that your bodies afterwards, be delivered to the surgeons, to be dissected. And the Lord have mercy on your souls!’

They were executed accordingly, amid the execrations of a vast concourse of spectators, at Hereford, March the 30th, 1770.

## PETER CONWAY AND MICHAEL RICHARDSON,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THESE men were two of a gang who had associated themselves for the purpose of plunder, and in their very first attempt committed murder; at which they were so terrified, that they fled without rifling the pockets of the deceased. From this we may conclude that they were not hardened in this kind of villainy. We are sorry to find that two of the murderers escaped justice, by going out of the kingdom; but from a guilty mind they could never fly.

On Saturday, the 26th of May, 1770, Richardson, Conway, and two men, named Jackson and Fox, went to the shop of Mr. Robert Dun, in Princes Square, near Ratcliffe Highway, and purchased a pair of pistols. Jackson was afterwards an evidence against his accomplices; but we do not learn that Fox was ever taken into custody.

Having purchased the pistols, they left them at the house of an acquaintance, named Thomas; after which they all went to the lodgings of Conway, where they spent the night.

On the succeeding day (Sunday) they took a coach to Whitechapel, where they continued drinking till the dusk of the evening, when they went to Thomas's house for the pistols. Being unprovided with balls, they remained for a while in consultation what to substitute in their stead; and at length they cut a pewter spoon in pieces, and loaded their pistols.

This being done, Conway and Richardson went together; and the other two accompanied them, but at a small distance, that they might not appear to be a gang of ruffians. They met a gentleman's servant,

whom they stopped; but, as he had no money, he was permitted to pass without farther molestation.

It happened that, in the afternoon, Mr. Venables, a butcher in Whitechapel, had been walking to Stepney, with his neighbour, Mr. Rogers, a carpenter; and they were returning to town when they were met by the villains above mentioned, which happened a few minutes after they had parted from the gentleman's servant.

Mr. Venables and Mr. Rogers had the appearance of men from whom a considerable booty might be expected. Conway stopped the former, and demanded his money; but, instead of delivering it, Mr. Venables, who was a robust man, twice knocked down Richardson and Fox; and they had no sooner recovered their legs than Richardson and Conway instantly fired their pistols, and the two unoffending passengers were killed on the spot.

These unprovoked murders being thus perpetrated, the villains did not stay to rob the parties; but, with the consciousness of guilt, hurried away towards Stepney, whence they went to Ratcliffe Highway, and thence to Wapping, where they stopped a man, and robbed him of eighteen shillings and his watch.

This robbery being committed, they hastened to Darkhouse Lane, near Billingsgate, where they stayed during the night; and the next morning, after breakfasting at a public house in Southwark, they parted, with a view of consulting their safety in flight.

The bodies of the deceased, being found in the road, were conveyed to the watch-house; and a surgeon



being sent for, he examined the wounds, and found that they had been made by pieces of pewter.

On the following Wednesday Jackson was apprehended, on suspicion of having been concerned in the commission of these horrid murders. On his examination he gave information who were his accomplices; on which he was admitted an evidence for the crown.

In a few days after Jackson was taken into custody Conway went to the shop of Mr. Burtman, a pawnbroker, in Jermyn Street, where he offered a watch in pledge. An advertisement in the newspapers, describing the person of Conway, having been read by Mr. Burtman, the latter imagined that he was the man thus described; on which he gave a hint to one of his servants to sit by Conway, while he (Burtman) examined the watch.

The servant, apprehending danger, whispered his master that it was probable he had pistols in his possession; on which a person was sent out, to request the attendance of the neighbours, with a view to prevent mischief. In the interim Conway, remarking that they whispered together, begged permission to retire to the vault; which he was readily allowed to do: but on his return he was taken into custody, and a coach was called to convey him to Sir John Fielding's office in Bow Street.

As they were going thither Mr. Burtman hinted a strong suspicion that Conway was guilty of the murders; to which the latter made this remarkable and shocking answer: 'Damn my eyes! though I am guilty (I mean not guilty), I could not shoot two men at once.'

When he was brought to the house of the magistrate above mentioned, he was confronted with Jackson, when they mutually en-

deavored to criminate each other; but the circumstances against Conway were so very suspicious, that Sir John Fielding did not hesitate to commit him to Newgate.

Richardson was likewise apprehended within five days after this commitment, and taken to Bow Street for examination; when the charge against him was so very strong, that he was likewise committed to Newgate, to abide the event of a trial by jury.

Jackson having been admitted an evidence, bills of indictment were preferred, at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, against Conway and Richardson, who were put on their trials for the murders of Mr. Venables and Mr. Rogers. Jackson's evidence against them was full and positive; and this being strongly supported by that of the person of whom they had purchased the pistols, aided by a variety of collateral circumstances, the jury did not hesitate to convict them, the consequence of which was that they were condemned to die.

After conviction they were, as usual in such cases, lodged in the cells of Newgate, and we are sorry to say that their penitence did not seem proportioned to the dreadful crime they had committed; a crime of the blackest dye, and altogether unprovoked by those who fell victims to their inhuman barbarity.

On the Monday following, July the 19th, 1770, they were conveyed to Tyburn, the place of execution; an incredible number of people attending the solemn procession, and preparing to see the exit of men who had distinguished themselves by the atrociousness of their crimes, and whose story had excited the public curiosity in a very high degree.

Unprepared as these men appeared to have been for the dread-

ful fate that awaited them, yet, when they saw how near and how certain it was, they seemed to be shocked to a degree beyond description, and appeared as solemn and sincere in their devotions as others who had suffered at the fatal tree.

After execution their bodies were cut down and conveyed to Bow Common, where they were put in chains, and hung on a gibbet. Immense numbers of people went from London, to take a view of these malefactors while hanging in chains :

to talk of a thousand, or ten thousand, would be saying nothing; perhaps more than fifty thousand visited the spot within the first five days. On Sunday, particularly, the place resembled a crowded fair; and many people got money by selling liquors and other provisions to the assembled multitude. So great was the crowd, that the banks in the neighbourhood, and even the hedges, were broken down, that the mob might gratify their eager curiosity.

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### JOHN STRETTON,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING THE MAIL.

THIS unhappy man was descended of respectable parents, who gave him a liberal education; nor did any circumstance arise to throw blame on his character till the discovery of the crime which cost him his life.

He was apprenticed to a grocer in London, and served his time with a degree of fidelity that would have done credit to any servant; and he appeared to gain the general good opinion of those who were acquainted with him.

At the expiration of his apprenticeship he went to live as a journeyman to a grocer in Bishopsgate Street, where he still maintained a fair character, and continued in this station several years, during which he married, and had a daughter; but his wife died a considerable time before the perpetration of the fact which rendered him a fatal victim to the violated laws of his country.

Mr. Stretton, having by his frugality accumulated a sum of money, opened a shop in Bishopsgate Street on his own account, and had every reasonable prospect of success; for so regular had been his conduct, and so irreproachable was his cha-

acter, that not any person in his own way of business refused to give him credit to any reasonable amount.

Unhappily, however, he had not long embarked in trade before his ruin ensued, from a cause which one would have thought very unlikely to produce it.

Having conceived a design of advancing himself in life by a second marriage, and a butcher in the neighbourhood being reputed worth a considerable sum of money, he paid his addresses to his daughter, who was so well pleased with him, that she did not hesitate to make a declaration in his favour; but the father, unwilling to part with any money, as a portion for his daughter, resolved not to give his consent, because Mr. Stretton was not in circumstances of independence.

In the mean time the lovers contrived frequent opportunities of seeing each other, and the young woman repeatedly informed Mr. Stretton with the determination of her father. Chagrined by this circumstance, and resolved to remove the objection which seemed to arise from his presumed poverty, he made the dreadful resolution of robbing the mail.

He had not, however, for some time an opportunity of carrying his intention into execution; for he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which confined him to his bed for some weeks, during which time he was frequently visited by the girl whom he had courted, and also by her mother, who was a warm friend to the proposed marriage.

At length he recovered his health in a very considerable degree; on which he resolved to complete, if possible, the plan which had so long agitated his mind. In pursuance hereof he took an opportunity, when his shopman was in bed, one Saturday night, to quit the house, and go as far as the City Road, between Islington and London, where he awaited the arrival of the northern mail, which came opposite Peerless Pool about two o'clock in the morning.

Stretton, observing the postboy coming up, stopped the mail, and took out such bags as he thought proper; after which he went into Moorfields, where he examined the contents of the bags, and, selecting such bills and notes as he considered most valuable, left the bags behind him, and retired to his own house.

As soon as the robbery was made known at the post-office, the Postmaster-General offered by advertisement, as is usual on such occasions, a reward of two hundred pounds for the apprehension of the robber: but nothing transpired in the course of several weeks; and it is probable that the offender might have remained much longer undetected but for the following circumstance.

Stretton still continued to pay his addresses to the butcher's daughter;

but her father, unwilling that she should marry a man in low or doubtful circumstances, was continually talking to Stretton on the subject of money matters; till at length the latter was so imprudent as to show him the drafts in his possession, and even to send a porter to Mr. Boldero's, the banker, for the acceptance of one of them, that no doubt might remain of their being good notes: but the porter had no sooner presented the bill than he was detained, and a peace-officer, and other persons, were sent in search of Mr. Stretton, whom they found at his own house.

They inquired how he came to be possessed of the note in question; to which he replied that he had taken it in the course of business from a person in Bond Street, who was in his debt.

This story did not seem to be credited; however, a coach was called, and the parties went together to Bond Street, in search of the person who was said to have paid the bill: but no such man could be found; on which the suspicions against Stretton being greatly strengthened, he was conveyed to the house of Sir John Fielding, who committed him to Newgate, to abide the event of a trial.

Objections being made by counsel to the putting him on his trial at the first and second sessions after his commitment, it was accordingly brought on at the third.\*

When Mr. Stretton was put on his trial, full proof arose that the drafts and notes which had been taken out of the mail were found in his house; and, as he could give no probable account how they came into his possession, there was a strong presumptive, amounting al-

\* It ought to be mentioned, to the credit of our courts of justice, that the slightest argument, which has but the appearance of reason, is sufficient to influence the Bench in favour of the prisoner.



most to positive, proof that he had himself committed the robbery ; for it appeared evident to the jury that a tradesman, who had taken these bills and notes in the common course of business, could have accounted for the manner in which he became possessed of them, or at least the greater part of them.

After a full deliberation on the case, the jury did not hesitate to pronounce him guilty, the consequence of which was that he received sentence of death.

After conviction he was regular in his attendance on the offices of divine worship ; but no arguments that were made use of could prevail on him to acknowledge his guilt, and he steadily persisted in a denial of the justice of his sentence. Notwithstanding this, he appeared exceedingly penitent for all the faults which he had ever committed ; and declared that he expected salvation only through the merits of the Redeemer of mankind : but, with regard to robbing the mail, he insisted that he had never been guilty of it ; and that he detested the thought of such an execrable baseness, and was totally innocent of the crime alleged against him.

These declarations he repeatedly made ; and on the morning of execution, when he was called down to the Press-yard, to have his irons knocked off, he was urged by the Ordinary of Newgate to make an explicit confession of the crime ; but, far from doing so, he still avowed his perfect innocence.

He was attended to the place of execution by immense crowds of people, who wished to hear the dying words of a man to be executed for so capital a crime, for which he would never acknowledge the justice of that verdict by which he had been condemned.

This unhappy man suffered at

Tyburn on the 1st of August, 1770.

Many people have thought it impossible, and indeed humanity would suppose it so, for any man to die with a lie in his mouth ; but in the case of Stretton it will be very hard to form an opinion in his favour ; for, if he did not obtain the notes and drafts by robbing the mail, how did he procure them ?— If he could have given an honest account how he became possessed of them—if he could, as Shakspeare emphatically phrases it, have delivered ‘ a round unvarnished tale— it would have been almost impossible that he should have been convicted ; for the jurymen of this country (to their honour be it recorded) are exceedingly tender of the lives of their fellow-citizens.

The presumption then, in this particular case, is very strong that the malefactor must have denied his crime from a species of pride altogether unwarrantable. We would not wish to be thought severe or uncharitable in our conjectures ; but it is improbable that any man could have been possessed of the contents of a mail, which had been robbed, without knowing how they came into his possession.

His sending the draft to the banker's for acceptance is a proof of the most egregious folly ; for he must have been morally certain that his messenger would be stopped, and that his own detection would inevitably ensue.

If we suppose that his love induced him to take this dangerous step, we should recollect that he had been married before, and was therefore the less likely to have been involved in a passion so violent as to tempt him to so dangerous an experiment.

Upon the whole, notwithstanding all appearances to the contrary,

the presumption is very strong that this man was in distressed circumstances, which he sought to repair by marriage ; but, finding his hopes at least postponed, he took the most dangerous method imaginable to repair his shattered fortunes.

It is astonishing that, during his sickness, he should not have had recollection enough to induce him to desist from carrying into execution the dangerous plan he had formed. In general sickness is pro-

ductive of thoughts more serious than those which attend us in perfect health ; but the whole of this unhappy man's conduct should teach us to pray continually for the assisting grace of God, that we may not be led into temptation, but delivered from all the evils that surround us ; so that, after a short passage through this troublesome world, we may be received into the arms of eternal mercy !



*Morgan at the Club.*

### RICHARD MORGAN,

EXECUTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

This malefactor was a native of Ellesmere, in Shropshire, descended of poor parents, whose virtuous characters were the greatest part of their possession. They bestowed on him as good an education as their circumstances would admit, and were careful to instruct him in the

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duties of religion. When he grew towards years of maturity he entered into the service of a farmer in the neighbourhood, with whom he lived near three years with an unblemished reputation.

After this he engaged to serve other farmers in different parts of



England, continuing to labour as a husbandman till he became almost two-and-twenty years of age, and then repaired to London, in order to obtain subsistence by his honest endeavours.

He had not been long in town before he entered into the service of Mr. Hotchkin, a capital linen-draper near Smithfield Bars. His principal business was to carry out parcels, and his behaviour was such, for a considerable time, as entitled him to the approbation of his master.

At length he was unfortunate enough to become acquainted with the servant of a distiller in the neighbourhood, who introduced him into a set of company which led to his ruin. Morgan had been hitherto remarkable for his sobriety; but a fatal change soon took place. The distiller's servant was one of a low alehouse club, of which Morgan became a member; and each of the company paid fourpence halfpenny for his evening's expenses in beer and tobacco.

It was in this club that the first taint appears to have been given to Morgan's morals. Some of the company, who were chiefly porters, used to boast how considerably they defrauded their masters, and even mentioned the names of the parties to whom they sold the stolen effects.

For some time Morgan appeared shocked at the idea of obtaining money by such a violation of the laws of duty and integrity, and actually absented himself from the club; but at length the servant of the distiller prevailed on him to rejoin the company, which he did, but with a reserve in his own mind that he would not be concerned in any of their iniquitous transactions.

These good resolutions, however,

did not last any considerable time; for his companions, wishing him to enter into their practices, artfully took him to the house of the man who received the stolen goods, where he saw such various articles which porters had stolen from their masters, and remained undetected, that he was but too easily induced to commence the illicit practice.

His mind being thus prepared for acts of dishonesty, he soon began to purloin his master's effects, which he stole in considerable quantities; and as Mr. Hotchkin had a very large stock, and dealt in the wholesale trade, the articles could not be easily missed, so that he had an opportunity of continuing his depredations for a considerable space of time; and, indeed, when the articles were at length missed, no one suspected Morgan to be the thief, as his character had been hitherto irreproachable, and his behaviour such as to entitle him to general respect.

His custom was to convey the stolen goods to a stable in Durham Yard, Chick Lane, where they were deposited till the usual purchaser came, and bought them, and carried them off.

Morgan's practices in this way were so considerable, that his companions of the club began to look on him as a proper agent for disposing of such goods as should be stolen by others; but this plan was defeated almost as soon as it was formed.

Mr. Hotchkin at length discovering that he had been robbed, and that the depredations had been frequently renewed, and observing that not any person had broken into his house, he concluded that the robber must be one who lived in the family.

In consequence hereof a person was appointed to watch the motions



of Morgan; and on his going out he was followed to a house, whence he took several parcels to an inn, to be carried by the Birmingham waggon.

Inquiry being made into the affair, it was discovered that Morgan had a considerable quantity of goods destined for the same place; and these, being examined, were found to be the property of Mr. Hotchkin, whose marks were on the several pieces; on which the offender was taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate. On his examination he denied having been guilty of the crime alleged against him; but, as the presumptive evidence of the fact was too strong to allow of his being dismissed, he was committed to Newgate, till the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, that his guilt or innocence might abide the award of a jury.

On his trial the evidence against him was so conclusive that no hesitation could be made to find him guilty, and judgment of death passed of course.

After conviction he acknowledged to the Ordinary of Newgate the justice of his sentence, and owned that he had defrauded his master of goods to a considerable amount. He was constant and regular in his devotions, both in the chapel and in his cell; nor did he seem to entertain a hope of that mercy which he had no right to expect.

When he was told that his name was included in the warrant for execution, he received the dreadful news with great composure; and confessed that he had merited the shocking fate that awaited him. He behaved even with pious resignation, and acknowledged that faith in the merits of Christ by which poor sinners are to expect salvation.

He was visited after conviction by a number of people who had known him in the former part of life, and who kindly assisted him in his solemn preparations for eternity.

He received the sacrament on the morning of his death, and repeated the declarations he had formerly made of his guilt. At the fatal tree he addressed himself to the surrounding multitude, earnestly desiring servants not to defraud their employers. He prayed in the most earnest manner, and so audibly as to be heard by great numbers who attended his fatal exit. After the body had hung the customary time it was delivered to his friends, in order to its being buried as they might think proper.

Richard Morgan suffered at Tyburn on the 27th of May, 1772.

From the case of this unfortunate man persons in a dependent situation should principally learn two things; viz. never to injure their masters; and by all means to avoid any connexion with low company at alehouses, as the keeping such company may insensibly involve them in expenses which may lead to the commitment of acts of dishonesty.

Honest countrymen are generally too fond of repairing to London, in the vain hope of making that fortune which very few of them ever acquire; and perhaps those who do might be more happy in their native fields, undisturbed with the cares of the busy world.

It is not every man that grows rich that becomes happy of course; and perhaps the contrary is more generally the case.

Upon the whole, we should learn resignation to the will of Providence, and be taught the great doctrine of being content in any station in which we may be placed:—

' Life's but a short chase ; the game Content,  
Which most pursued is most compelled to fly ;  
And he that mounts him on the swiftest hope  
Shall often run his courser to a stand ;

While the poor peasant, on some distant hill,  
Undangered, and at ease, views all the sport,  
And sees Content take shelter in his cottage.'

SHAKESPEARE.

## JAMES ATTAWAY AND RICHARD BAILEY,

EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

THE crime for which these men so justly suffered was committed in a manner most artful and daring.

About nine o'clock one evening they went to the house of Thomas Le Merr, Esq. in Bedford Row, London, a public and genteel street. They had received information that Mr. Le Merr was in the country. On their knocking at the door, it was opened by a footman, to whom Bailey delivered a letter, saying it was for his master: before the servant could answer, Attaway, another daring ruffian, who escaped justice, rushed in, shut the street door, and stabbed him in the belly with a dagger. They then drew cords from their pockets, tied the bleeding man's hands behind his back, and dragged him down stairs into the kitchen, unloosed his hands, and ordered him to light a candle, though, being summer, it was not dark. This done, regardless of his wound, which he begged time to bind up, they again tied his hands behind him, bringing the rope first about his neck, and then across his face, in such a manner that it went through his mouth, which it kept open, and then made it fast behind. Thus bound, they dragged him into a cellar, and bolted him in.

In a few minutes one of the villains returned, asking if he was fast; and being answered, as well as the poor man could speak, that he was secure enough, they broke open the pantry, where the plate-chest was kept, forced the lock, and

deliberately packed up its contents. In the mean time the wounded man gnawed the rope in his mouth, and soon liberated himself. He then forced open the door which confined him, and got into the area, over which was a skylight; and, apprehensive that he was bleeding to death, he made an effort, by climbing up a pipe, to get through it, and give an alarm. In effecting this he stuck by the middle, and near his wound, a considerable time, but was not heard by the thieves, who were busily employed in securing their plunder. Making a last exertion, he succeeded, and, dragging the rope after him, got to the stables behind the house, and called for help as loud as his almost exhausted strength would permit. Five or six grooms immediately came to his assistance, and seized the robbers as they were coming out of the house; thus fortunately saving the poor fellow's life and Mr. Le Merr's property.

On this evidence they were consequently found guilty, the wounded man being able to appear in court against them. They were executed at Tyburn, July 4, 1770, along with Daniel Pfluyer, for a burglary in the house of Robert Walker, of Little Carter Lane, London; Francis Lutterwell, for stealing wearing apparel, the property of Thomas Jackson, in the house of William Shepherd, in Bell Yard, Temple Bar; and John Read, alias Miller, for returning from transportation.

## CAPTAIN DAVID FERGUSON,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS CABIN-BOY.

At the Admiralty sessions, held at the Old Bailey, on the 17th of December, 1770, David Ferguson, master of the merchant-ship *Betsey*, was tried for the murder of his cabin-boy, a lad about thirteen years of age, during his voyage from Virginia to Antigua.

It appeared that four of Captain Ferguson's crew died, and he was charged with the murder of them all. On one of these alleged crimes he was tried in Virginia, and acquitted.

Lord Bortelot, the then governor of that colony, transmitted the proceedings of the Court to the secretary of state for foreign affairs in London, with a favorable opinion thereon.

Though we have had too frequent occasion, in the course of this work, to state the wanton exercise of that power necessarily given to commanders at sea, yet we also know that the crew are too often ready to construe necessary correction into cruelty; and, should any of the hands corrected by the captain die, even by accident, or the common course of nature, they are sure to aggravate the affair, and persecute their commander.

The ship *Betsey* sailed from the Capes of Virginia in the depth of winter, when the cold is intense to a degree, of which Englishmen have hardly a conception. Heavy

gales of wind and long falls of snow succeed each other, day after day. The shrouds and rigging are incrustated with ice, and they often snap from the tension thereby occasioned. The masts, thus deprived of their principal support, are often ready to fall by the board, while the deck is deeply covered with snow.\*

In such cases seamen do their duty with much reluctance; and, when their extravagance in harbour has deprived them of the means of laying in an allowance of brandy and tobacco, they grow clamorous to their captain for those indispensable articles, with which he is not bound to supply them; in fact, he generally provides little more than may serve himself.

Captain Ferguson's crew, thus situated, were often remiss in their duty; and, on several occasions, his utmost exertions were called upon for the safety of his ship; but that he exceeded the bounds of moderation must be admitted, from his conviction by an English jury of the murder of his cabin-boy.

Perhaps the severity of the season, the crew being unprovided with liquor, and also without sufficient warm clothing, contributed more to the death of the remaining three that perished than correction. The survivors imputed the murder of them all to the cruelty of their captain.

\* A shocking instance of the sad effects of these sudden snow storms, on the coast of America, happened to the officers of the *Assistance* man of war, lying off Sandy-Hook, near New York, in the year 1784. Six seamen of that ship confederated to desert, jumped into the yawl, and pushed off from the ship towards the shore. Another boat was got ready for a pursuit, and was manned by the first lieutenant, eleven other officers, and one seaman. Before they could come up with the deserters, a snow storm came on, which, as is often the case, so overpowered them, and so darkened the horizon, that they lost sight both of the yawl and the ship, and were all, except one, next morning found dead on the beach, near Middleton Point, in New Jersey, most of them sticking in the mud!



To come to the charge on which he was convicted: it was proved that he had frequently beat the boy in a manner far too severe for his tender years to bear; and that he had knocked him down, and then stamped upon him. After this barbarous usage he confined him almost an hour upon deck, to the weather-side of his long-boat, when the weather was so severe that snow covered the deck, and the shrouds were snapping. That he again pushed him down, and trod upon him with both his feet.

The seamen said that the boy provoked this punishment by coming upon deck with only one stocking on. The sufferer did not make complaint of the effects of his usage until eleven o'clock at night; and the next day he fell into the hold, and was missing five hours. He was found dead upon the ballast.

In his defence Captain Ferguson proved the distress his ship was in from the weather, and the refractory spirit of the crew, several of whom he was obliged to force to their duty.

On the passage of the *Betsey* home to England, Major Watson and Captain Lilly, who were passengers, proved that she was wrecked on the coast of Sussex; and that it was owing to the resolution and good conduct of Captain

Ferguson that they, together with the crew, were saved. It also appeared that many vessels at sea with the *Betsey*, on the coast of America, had several of their crews frostbitten, which turning to gangrene, they died. The inference attempted to be made was that the frost had killed the cabin-boy.

Several respectable merchants gave the prisoner a good character for integrity and humanity; but the jury found him guilty, and sentence of death was passed upon him accordingly.

Considerable interest was made to obtain the royal mercy, and (a circumstance seldom granted to murderers, and then only when some doubts arise in the minds of the privy council on the case) he received a respite.

On the 4th of January, 1771, eighteen days after conviction, the warrant arrived for his execution; and the next day, attended by the marshal of the Admiralty, carrying a silver oar, he was carried from Newgate to Execution Dock, and there hanged.

His body was hung in chains upon the marshes of the river Thames.

Thus perished Captain David Ferguson, a victim to his ungovernable passion, in the twenty-sixth year of his age.

### LUKE CANNON AND JOHN SIDAY, EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of February, 1771, Luke Cannon and John Siday were indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of the Honorable Edward Stratford, about two o'clock in the morning of the 12th of January preceding, and stealing silver plate, gold rings, diamonds, and a variety of other

valuable articles, to the amount of two thousand pounds.

It would be equally useless and tedious to recount the particulars of the indictment; for the things stolen were so very numerous, that the bare recital of them would fill some pages of this work.

Mary Brain, who had been a servant to Mr. Stratford at the

time of the robbery, deposed that Cannon had likewise lived with her master, but had been discharged on the 2d of January : that Siday came for some clothes which Cannon had left behind him ; but that the servants would not deliver them, as they conceived he had no authority to come thither. She said that there was an area before the window of the fore kitchen, which she found to be fast at ten o'clock, and that the kitchen window-shutter was secure at eight o'clock ; and likewise that the robbers must have entered at the fore kitchen.

Alexander Cornelius deposed that he was a servant of Mr. Stratford ; and that when he arose on the morning of the 12th of January he found a press burst open which he had safely locked on the preceding night, and that the plate was gone ; that he found the plate chest in the housekeeper's room also burst open ; that the sash in the window of the area had been burst, and the cords were hanging to it ; and that he observed many specks of wax about the hall, and some dirt which was not there on the preceding night. He said he had not been above ten or eleven days in Mr. Stratford's service, and was ignorant of what was lost out of the housekeeper's room.

Elizabeth Chamberlayne, the house-keeper, confirmed as much of Cornelius's evidence as came within her knowledge, and said that nothing was stolen from her room except the plate. She deposed that Cannon entered into Mr. Stratford's service at Bath ; but she had never seen Siday till after he was taken into custody.

Mr. Stratford gave the particulars of his having been robbed, as far as he could be acquainted with them : he said that he had taken Cannon into his service at Bath,

but discharged him on the 2d of January, on finding him much flushed with liquor, as he made it a rule never to keep a servant who was attached to the vice of drunkenness.

Moses Levi, a dealer in old clothes, deposed that Siday called him into his lodgings in Seacoal Lane, on the 21st of January, when Cannon was present, and that he bought of Siday some valuable clothes, and six hundred and fifty ounces of plate, paying for it upwards of one hundred and seventy pounds in cash and a note ; and that he paid a part of the sum to Siday, and a part to Cannon ; and farther, that he sold the plate to Jacob Jacobs, the son of Lazarus Jacobs. The testimony of the witness was positive that both the prisoners were present at the time he made the purchase.

There were a variety of corroborative circumstances, tending to prove the stealing and selling of the plate and other effects ; but the affair was so clear to the jury that they did not hesitate to find the prisoners guilty ; in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

At the same time Lazarus Jacobs, Jacob Jacobs, and Michael Glannon, were tried for receiving the stolen effects ; when Lazarus was acquitted, but Jacob Jacobs and Glannon were convicted, and sentenced to be transported for fourteen years, though they made very artful defences, and Glannon particularly brought many people to testify to his character—but character will have little weight against positive evidence.

After conviction the behaviour of Cannon and Siday was by no means adapted to their unhappy situation. They were attended, as usual in such cases, by the Ordinary of

Newgate, but paid little regard to his pious exhortations.

On the morning of execution Siday behaved in the most hardened manner; and, of three others that were condemned to suffer, one of them struck the executioner when he was put into the cart.

Immense crowds of spectators attended these unhappy young men to the place of their fatal exit; for their crimes had been much the subject of public conversation. Siday, in particular, had been concerned with George Birch in breaking open the house of Mr. Greenfield, linen-draper, in Fleet Street, and robbing it of goods to the amount of more than thirteen hundred pounds.

When they arrived at the place of execution, Cannon said that he had been a single man, a married man, an honest man, and a rogue, within a twelvemonth; and in which time he should suffer.

Luke Cannon and John Siday were executed at Tyburn on the 27th of February, 1771.

Of Cannon we have not been able to learn any farther particulars than what may be gathered from the course of the evidence above recited. With regard to Siday, we are told that he was born of respectable parents, well educated, and apprenticed to the very genteel profession of a printer. What use he made of these advantages is but too plainly seen in the preceding narrative.

An early attachment to bad com-

pany, and an introduction to the paths of vice, led with rapid and certain success to his ruin. Such ruin may be expected, and ought to be dreaded, by every youth, who dare not have the resolution of treading in the paths of virtue.

Yet, when we consider how much more easy it is to be honest than otherwise, how safe and how plain is the path of duty, one would wonder that any person could be blind enough to deviate into the ways of error.

From a serious consideration of the case before us, youth should be taught that a steady and unremitting perseverance in the line of duty, whatever little inconveniences may seem to attend them at the time, will infallibly tend to promote their welfare, temporal and eternal.

What person in his senses would condescend to be a rogue, when it is so much his interest to be honest? To say nothing of higher considerations, the mere credit of living in reputation, and being spoken well of by all our neighbours, should be sufficient to put vice out of fashion.

In the case before us one excellent lesson is taught to servants: Mr. Stratford discharged Cannon because he found him in liquor.—The reason was a good one. The man who will disguise himself, so as not to have the command of his own intellects, can never be the faithful servant of any master.

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### LEVI WEIL, ASHER WEIL, JACOB LAZARUS, AND SOLOMON PORTER,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF JOHN SLOW.

THIS daring violation of the law, which long roused the public indignation against the whole Jewish people, happened in the house of Mrs. Hutchings, in the King's

Road, Chelsea, who was a farmer's widow, left by her husband in good circumstances, and with three children, two boys and a girl.

On Saturday evening, just as



the Jewish sabbath ended, a numerous and daring gang of the disciples of the house of Israel assembled in Chelsea Fields, and there lurked about till ten o'clock, the hour of country people retiring to rest. The widow, for this purpose, having put the children to bed, went into her kitchen, where her two female servants were finishing the Saturday night's extra work.

She had scarcely sat down, and told them to haste to their rest, when an unexpected knock was heard at the door. 'Go,' said she to one of them; but the girl hesitated: the other was also unwilling to see who came to them at so unseasonable an hour.

'Foolish girls,' said the mistress, 'we will all go; and, taking them by each hand, they proceeded and opened the entrance. A fierce and bearded banditti rushed in, seized the terrified females, and threatened them with death on their resistance.

This gang afterwards proved to have been the following Jews:—

Levi Weil, a Jewish physician, hanged; Asher Weil, his brother, ditto; Jacob Lazarus, ditto; Solomon Porter, ditto; Lazarus Harry, acquitted for want of evidence; Marcus Hartagh, ditto; Daniel Isaacs, admitted evidence for the crown; Abraham Linevill, absconded.

Levi Weil had been educated in

a rank above his accomplices. He had studied physic in the university of Leyden, where he was admitted to the degree of doctor in that faculty; and, then coming to England, he practised physic in London, with no inconsiderable degree of success, and was always known by the name of Doctor Weil; but so destitute was he of all principle, and such was the depravity of his heart, that he determined to engage in the dangerous practice of robbery; and, having formed this fatal resolution, he wrote to Amsterdam, to some poor Jews, to come to England, and assist him in his intended depredations on the public; and at the same time informed them that in England large sums were to be acquired by the practice of theft.

The inconsiderate men no sooner received Dr. Weil's letter than they procured a passport from the English consul, and, embarking in the Harwich packet-boat, arrived in England.

They lost no time in repairing to London, and, immediately attending Dr. Weil, he informed them that his plan was, that they should go out in the day time, and minutely survey such houses near London as might probably afford a good booty in the night. This they did while pretending to purchase old clothes.\*

Mrs. Hutchings was a female of some strength of body: she resisted

\* Those unacquainted with the ways and customs of the metropolis will be surprised when we say that, on a moderate calculation, it contains twenty thousand Jews. They are generally a set of cheats, and the lower order are to be found lurking in every street, lane, and alley, pretending to buy old clothes, old metal, glass, hare and rabbit skins, old hats and shoes; but their real object is to corrupt servants to pilfer from their masters. These itinerant Jews are ever ready to purchase any thing offered for sale; and when the article has been stolen, of which they are admirable judges, they seldom give the thief more than one-third of its value. They also carry about base money, which they pay for stolen goods, and circulate it by every possible deception. Denying the divinity of Christ, they seldom scruple at committing perjury; and hence the expression of 'Cheap as Jew bail.' They will swear as directed, and consequently their evidence meets little credit, even when they speak the truth. On a justification of bail before Lord Mansfield a Jew appeared, dressed, as was then the fashion for gentlemen, in laced

the outrage, and, finding the villains using one of the girls with immodest brutality, attempted to assist her; but the wicked doctor seized the mistress, and forced her to sit down upon a chair. He then pulled up part of her petticoats, and held them over her head, with a view of preventing her identifying the gang, threatening to murder her in case of further resistance. Terrified into submission, she remained some time almost stifled, while his associates secured the other women.

Then five of them, headed by the doctor, went up stairs, the others remaining to guard their prisoners, and to prevent the surprise of an alarm.

They first entered the room where John and Thomas, the young sons of Mrs. Hutchings, were in bed. They threw off the bed-clothes, and, happily, the boys still slept. In this way they proceeded in the daughter's bed-room, when kind Providence kept her also unconscious of the fate hanging over her; for there is little doubt, so hardened and determined were the robbers, they would not have hesitated at silencing in death the natural screams of alarm of children, on being awakened by such a set of horrid-looking men.

From the children they proceeded to the attic story, where slept John Slow and William Stone, two husbandmen in the service of Mrs. Hutchings, and who were also asleep.

These unfortunate men, more dangerous far to the villains than

women and children, they immediately determined to murder.

The doctor, for so he was denominated, was the most sanguinary villain of his gang; he aimed a blow at the breast of Stone, intended for his death, but which only stunned him. Slow started up, and the villains cried 'Shoot him! shoot him!' A pistol was instantly fired at him, and he fell, exclaiming 'Lord have mercy on me! I am murdered!'

They dragged the wounded man out of the room to the head of the stairs; and during the time Stone, recovering his senses, jumped out of bed, and escaped to the roof of the house, through the window. He was fired at, though happily the shot did not take effect, and was some time sought after by the villains, calling and threatening him with the fate of his companion, while he crouched behind a chimney, not daring to give the alarm.

Now they descended, and the children yet slept. They returned to the women, and plundered the house of plate, and every thing valuable. Finding no specie, they once more ferociously came to Mrs. Hutchings, and demanded money, saying they knew it was in the house. She gave them her watch, and, denying cash, one of them struck her in the mouth with a force that loosened her teeth; upon which, now expecting to be murdered, she was unloosed, upon promise of showing them where her money was concealed.

She went up stairs, and gave them a purse, containing sixty-four

clothes, hired for the purpose. He was opposed by the counsel for the plaintiff, who declared he held an affidavit in his hand, stating that he was no housekeeper, and making other objections to his being received. Lord Mansfield very shrewdly observed, that he could see no objection, for 'the man would burn for the money.' This excellent judge discountenanced petty actions, which generally ruin both plaintiff and defendant: and hence he admitted any kind of bail; but, it seems, the man in lace was unobjectionable.

guineas. With this, and the other plunder, which they deposited in bags brought for the purpose, the villains quitted the house.

Mrs. Hutchings, finding they did not return, went to see how her servants had been used in this horrid violation of law and humanity. She found two of the maid-servants bound together; and no sooner had she given them their liberty than the wounded man approached her, and said, 'How are you, madam? for I am dying.' These words were scarcely pronounced when he dropped on the floor; and, having languished under the most excruciating pain till the afternoon of the following day, he then expired, leaving behind him a wife and two children to lament his loss.

The villains, having effected a perfect escape, remained undiscovered for a considerable time, till Daniel Isaacs, one of the gang, became the means, in the hand of Providence, of discovering his accomplices.—Isaacs was one of those unhappy men who had been induced to come from Holland in consequence of Dr. Weil's letter; and, being now reduced to circumstances of distress, he applied for assistance to the elders of the Jewish synagogue.

The treasurer, Mr. Myers, refused Isaacs any immediate assistance, urging as a reason that he had acted improperly in leaving his native country, Holland, where he might have probably obtained an honest livelihood, and coming to England, where he could not have an equal chance of living in credit.

The robbery and murder at Mrs. Hutchings's was no sooner known than a reward was offered from the Secretary of State's Office for the apprehension of the offenders; and this offer was seconded by that of a much more considerable reward from the city of London on which

Isaacs, greatly reduced by poverty, and tempted by the prospect of the reward, went to Mr. Myers, whom he made acquainted with the whole of the shocking transaction.

Mr. Myers took Isaacs to Sir John Fielding's office, where he was strictly examined, and admitted an evidence against his accomplices, six of whom were soon apprehended; but the other made his escape, and it was supposed he went abroad, as he has not since been heard of.

On their examination at the public office in Bow Street the villains, in order to disguise their Jewish appearance, had shaved themselves, and altered their dress: yet Mrs. Hutchings singled them out, and swore to their persons.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of December, 1771, Levi Weil, Asher Weil, Marcus Hartagh, Jacob Lazarus, Solomon Porter, Lazarus Harry, and Abraham Linevill (the party who had absconded), were indicted for the felony and murder above mentioned, when the two of the name of Weil, with Jacob Lazarus and Solomon Porter, were capitally convicted; and Marcus Hartagh and Lazarus Harry were acquitted.

These men, as is customary in all cases of murder, when it can be made convenient to the Court, were tried on a Friday, and on the following day they were anathematized in the synagogue.

As their execution was to take place on the Monday following, one of the rabbis went to them in the Press-yard of Newgate, and delivered to each of them a Hebrew book; but declined attending them to the place of death, nor even prayed with them at the time of his visit.

They were attended to Tyburn, the place of execution, by immense



crowds of people, who were anxious to witness the exit of wretches whose crimes had been so much the object of public notice.

Having prayed together, and sung a hymn in the Hebrew language, they were launched into eternity, December 9, 1771.

After the bodies had hung the customary time they were conveyed to Surgeons' Hall to be dissected.

The writer of this melancholy detail of villainy was prompted by curiosity, some few years after the

commission of the crime, to procure admission into Surgeons' Hall, where he saw the skeletons of the Weils, hung up near to that of Mrs. Brownrigg; and over the jaws of each was cemented a black bushy beard.

Though this shocking affair was a terrible blow to the more respectable part of the Jews, it is but justice to them to say, that they showed every mark of abhorrence to the wicked deeds of their degenerate brethren.

## EDWARD BIRCH AND MATTHEW MARTIN,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE first-mentioned of these malefactors, Birch, was the son of very respectable parents, and born at Hereford; and, after having received a very liberal education, he served as a lieutenant in the militia during the war.

Being concerned in a matter respecting a family estate, the right of which was litigating in the Court of Chancery, he came to London in the year 1766; and as his business obliged him to stay in town for a considerable time, and being of a scheming turn of mind, and possessed of ready money, he determined to employ it in some manner that he thought would prove advantageous.

While he was deliberating on the best method of disposing of his cash, he became acquainted with a person named Cobb, a mechanic of singular ingenuity, who had contrived a machine for the catching of fish in much greater numbers than by the usual methods.

Mr. Cobb was not in circumstances to carry his plan into execution, yet was exceedingly anxious to reap the fruits of his ingenuity. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that he readily embraced an

offer of partnership with Birch, who was able to lay down the sum that might be wanted for the completion of the scheme. This being the situation of both parties, the partnership of course ensued, the terms of which were very advantageous to Birch.

Mr. Cobb having procured a patent to secure to him the sole emoluments to arise from his scheme, Birch advanced the money to pay for it, and a farther sum to fit out a vessel, which was sent to sea under the immediate direction of Cobb. This step was intended merely to ascertain the success that was likely to attend the scheme; but, as the first trial exceeded the most sanguine expectations of either party, Birch formed the ungenerous design of becoming sole proprietor of the patent.

With this view he found a pretence to quarrel with Cobb. The scheme did not take complete effect; but the partnership was dissolved on the following terms, viz. 'That Birch should be allowed the use of Cobb's machine to fish with till such time as the money owing to him was paid; while Cobb was to carry on the fishery in what manner

he thought proper.' This agreement took place in the year 1768 ; and Cobb, being now reduced to very low circumstances, embarked for Denmark, where he continued many months.

Birch, in the mean time, flattered himself with the hope of obtaining a very considerable fortune by the new project ; and at this period he married a girl, with whom he received a fortune of five hundred pounds. During Mr. Cobb's absence from England Birch went to South Wales, where he engaged in the business of the fishery, which, for some months, was attended with as great success as could have been expected.

In order to dispose to advantage of the fish thus taken, an agent was employed to sell them in London ; and they were regularly sent up in machines constructed for bringing them with expedition, and without injury.

It happened that a quarrel arose between Birch and the person who was his agent, respecting the punctuality of payments ; on which the latter was arrested by Birch ; but he instantly gave bail to the action, and then prevailed on a rope-maker to arrest Mr. Birch.

These matters were litigated with the utmost warmth and imprudence on both sides ; till at length Birch found himself so embarrassed by the expenses of law\* that he was obliged to take refuge in a prison.

The business of his fishery was now wholly neglected, and at length he determined to take the benefit of an insolvent act ; and it is said that he was perjured in this matter, swearing that he was in Ireland at the time prescribed by law, though

he had not been out of this kingdom ; but this we do not aver as a fact, unwilling to load the unfortunate, and the deceased, with the imputation of crimes which possibly they may never have committed : and we are the more dissident of admitting the alleged crime in this particular case, because it is probable that, if Birch had been perjured, he would have been prosecuted with the utmost severity of the law.

Be this as it may, he was now in circumstances of great distress,—having no other support for himself and his wife than what arose from the casual bounty of his friends.

We are told that, for a year after he was cleared by the act for the relief of insolvent debtors, he was perpetually devising schemes to raise money, some of which were not the most laudable : and that at length he engaged in a forgery, not less extraordinary in the design than fatal in its consequences.

It happened that Sir Andrew Chadwick, who was one of the band of gentlemen pensioners, was in possession of estates to a very considerable amount. Sir Andrew, having attained a very great age, had repeatedly drawn his will, at distant periods, but had not signed his name to any will that he had made, though there were many copies of what he intended to have done for his relations and immediate heirs at law.

Birch becoming acquainted with a woman who had found one of the wills in an old trunk that had been the property of Sir Andrew, the former seemed to think, on the perusal of it, that some emolument might arise from the possession of this paper.

\* Surely no man in his senses would deliberately embark in law. How many instances do we see of the lawyers swallowing up the whole property ! It is better for a man to submit to an injury than to be stripped of all he has in the world, as is but too frequently the case.

In a short time afterwards Sir Andrew died; and, no will regularly executed being found, a gentleman of Lancashire, who had married a niece of the deceased, took possession of his fortune, in defect of claim being made by any nearer relation.

In the mean time Birch made diligent inquiry after the relations of Sir Andrew, and at length found that one of them, who lived in Ireland, had a better title to the estate than the person who was then in possession of it. With a view to make a private advantage, Birch made known his discovery to Matthew Martin, the other subject of this melancholy narrative. Martin was a watch-maker by profession, and in easy circumstances. He advanced a sum of money to enable Birch to go to Ireland, and find out the right heir to the estate.

Birch set out on this expedition; and, having found more than one claimant, he returned to London, and made a new will in the name of the deceased, conveying the fortune to the Irish relations. This being done, Birch and Martin submitted the forged will to the inspection of an attorney; and it was agreed to commence an action for recovery against the gentleman who was in possession of the estate.

It appeared that the presumptive will had been dated in the year 1764; but some drafts of wills made since that time by Sir Andrew Chadwick being found among the papers of the deceased, a suspicion arose that a forgery had been committed in the business; on which Birch and Martin were taken into custody, and carried to Sir John Fielding's office, where Birch's behaviour was plausible in a very high degree; and he gave such an account of his becoming possessed of the will as would have satisfied per-

sons not aware of the knavery of mankind. Several persons attended at the office, ready to bail Birch and Martin; but the magistrate refused to accept of any bail, and committed the prisoners to Newgate.

In the interim between the commitment and the trial, one of the most extraordinary circumstances happened that was ever recorded in a work of this nature. A paper-maker, who lived at Maidstone, being in town on his private business, fell into company with the attorney who was employed to carry on the prosecution; and, the conversation happening to turn on the circumstances of the presumed forgery, he begged to have a sight of the will, which at this time being in the hands of Sir John Fielding, the attorney took him to the office of that magistrate, where the will was presented to him; and no sooner had he taken a view of it than he declared that, in the year 1768, he had made the paper on which that very will was written.

The trial of the prisoners was brought on at the ensuing session of gaol delivery at the Old Bailey. The paper-maker above mentioned was an evidence, and the most material one, on the trial; for he proved that the paper had a mark upon it, which he himself invented in the year 1768, and he positively swore that the paper was of his own manufacture.

Though there were several collateral proofs of the fact, yet they would not have been of sufficient weight to convict the prisoners but for this positive evidence of the paper-maker. Birch cross-examined the witnesses in such a manner as proved that he was a man of subtlety and address; but, notwithstanding all his artifices, both the prisoners were found guilty, after



a trial which continued thirteen hours.

The counsel for the convicts moved an arrest of judgment on the last day of the sessions, founded on a point of law presumed to have arisen in their favour. No objection being made to this motion, the sentence was postponed till the final opinion of the learned judges had been taken on the case.

This case was learnedly argued before the judges (nine of whom were present) at Sergeants' Inn Hall, in Michaelmas term, 1771; when the reverend bench were unanimous in opinion that the convicts were guilty of the crime alleged against them; in consequence of which they were condemned to die.

After sentence of death was passed on them they behaved with a decent and devout resignation to their fate; for, not entertaining the least hope of that pardon which could not reasonably be expected, they made every preparation for the awful change that was to await them.

On the day of execution they were fervent in their devotions at the fatal tree; and, after the customary ceremonies on such solemn occasions, they were turned off.—After hanging the usual time, their bodies were delivered to their friends, in order to be buried.

These unhappy men suffered at Tyburn on the 2d of January, 1772.

The intervention of Providence in the detection of guilt is most strongly exhibited in the case of these malefactors. Who could have conceived that the discovery of forgery should have arisen from a circumstance so apparently trifling as the writing a presumptive will on one sheet of paper rather than on another? Yet so it happened. Little did the forgerer think, when

he purchased the sheet of paper, that it was to be the immediate instrument of his own destruction!

We have had many opportunities, in the course of this work, of remarking on the horrid nature and dangerous consequences of forgery; but nothing has equalled the particularity of the cases of Birch and Martin, and perhaps such an instance may not occur again for an age: yet surely this ought to afford a lesson of the highest caution, never to be guilty of a crime which leads to such certain and absolute destruction.

In the affair of the malefactors in question their counsel started an objection, which left their case to the consideration of the judges. Very few cases have we known where the opinions of the judges differed from those of the juries of this country. In fact, the juries, according to the construction of our laws, and in the eye of reason, are the true judges of the fact, the essential declarers of the guilt or innocence of the party accused.

Notwithstanding this, we ought to think ourselves happy in the tender exertion of our legislative power. When one jury has found a man guilty, the slightest error, real or accidental, will entitle his case to the retrospection of a second—that of the venerable bench of judges, who cannot be supposed to be biassed by any interest, to be influenced by any consideration, to give their opinions in favour of either party, contrary to the established rules of right, and the known laws of the land.

Upon the whole, we have a claim to triumph in the protection afforded us by the laws; and those who wilfully transgress them ought to be punished in the most exemplary manner.

## WILLIAM EDWARDS WHITE,

EXECUTED FOR MURDER.

THE cruelty and depravity of this villain alone deserve notice in our Criminal Catalogue. He first broke his oath to God, that he would faithfully serve his king, as a good soldier; then deserted the service of his country; and, thus let loose upon the public, he fell to plundering and murdering the innocent traveller.

How many were his victims, or to what amount he had plundered, does not appear; for he was a hardened villain, denying at the very gallows the murder which we shall now proceed to relate.

On the 16th of September, preceding his execution, the body of a man was found near the public house called the Hampshire Hog, on the Hammersmith road, near London. The skull was fractured in a shocking manner, and the pockets of the deceased were found rifled of all their contents.

Suspicion soon fell upon the soldier who had been seen lurking about the neighbourhood, and White was therefore apprehended, and committed to Newgate.

On Friday, the 23d of October, 1772, he was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey; and, without a doubt remaining in the mind of the jury, they found him guilty.

Being convicted of murder, execution must follow within forty-eight hours; and, in order to give the unhappy culprits as much time as possible to make their peace with the Almighty, they are generally tried on a Friday, and, Sunday being by the law deemed *dies non*, execution cannot take place until the day after; and the Monday subsequent to the conviction of White was the anniversary of the accession to the throne of King George III.

A writer of the time says, 'It is remarkable, that, since the 25th of October, 1760 (the accession), no man had been hanged on that day, in London, except a murderer, who then suffered death at the end of Bow Street, Covent Garden.

White was executed at Tyburn, October the 25th, 1773, and died an obdurate and unrepenting sinner, acknowledging the robbery, but denying the murder.

Two days after his execution the same gallows suspended five well-looking and penitent men, whose fate caused very different sensations in the breasts of the spectators.

These men were Thomas Ashby and Edward Lundy M'Donald, for a burglary in the house of Mr. Edmund Bailey, in Oxford Street, and stealing therefrom a quantity of plate and other effects.

William Cox, for stealing bank-notes and cash to the amount of four hundred and forty pounds, the property of Mr. Kendrick, in Oxford Street.

Emanuel Peel, for breaking into the house of William Bakewell, Esq. in Jernyn Street, and stealing thereout a quantity of plate, and other valuable articles; and

John Sterling, for forging a will, purporting to be the last testament of Elizabeth Shooter, with an intent to defraud the South Sea Company of three hundred and fifty pounds.

Their behaviour was very devout, and Sterling was remarkably penitent. Just before Cox was turned off he whispered something to Mr. Toll, who acted as Ordinary, and who, with a loud and distinct voice, acquainted the spectators 'that William Cox begged their prayers; that he acknowledged he committed the crime for which he

was about to suffer, and hoped that God would receive his soul.' On this the dying man expressed much consolation, and the people cried 'Amen.'

A proof that these unfortunate men were respected and pitied on their journey to eternity appears from a circumstance somewhat unusual, of both the sheriffs, with their under-sheriffs, attending on horse-back, and two men in black scarfs and hatbands, and with black staves

in their hands, walking before the carts which conveyed the prisoners to the place of execution, where they were allowed an hour and a half in their devotions—a circumstance not then remembered.

Mourning-hearses attended, to take away the bodies of Cox and Sterling; and the others were delivered to their friends.

The concourse of people on this occasion, and the awfulness of the scene, were unparalleled.



*Bolland and his 'unfortunate Guests at Cards.*

### JAMES BOLLAND, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

THE criminal annals of the British nation hardly produce a more complicated detail of profligacy and plunder than that which will be found in the life of James Bolland.

Jonathan Wild, that prince of thieves, can, perhaps, alone claim pre-eminence in villainy. Jona-

than robbed under the cloak of a thief-taker; James committed his depredations as a sheriff's officer. Jonathan *plundered* the very thieves themselves; James *spunged* the unfortunate debtors out of their last shilling, till justice overtook him for committing forgery.

Bolland was the son of a butcher,



who brought him up to the same business. The youth gave early proofs of a profligate turn of mind, and constantly associated with the worthless of both sexes.

The term of his servitude being expired, Bolland opened a shop in the Borough of Southwark, and his business afforded him a very favorable prospect of success; but, through his irregularity and extravagance, his trade gradually declined, and, to free himself from some embarrassments that his misconduct had produced, he sold his effects.

Bolland's favorite associates for some years had been bailiffs, bailiffs' followers, thief-takers, and runners to the different prisons; and, the natural cruelty of his disposition being encouraged by the example of the worthless people in whose company he consumed the greatest part of his time, he resolved to gain a maintenance by preying upon the distresses of his fellow-creatures.

Having procured himself to be appointed one of the officers to the sheriff of the county of Surrey, he hired a house at the bottom of Falcon Court, facing St. George's church, Southwark; and, having fitted it up in the manner of a prison, it was soon inhabited by a number of unfortunate persons.

The people he arrested, who were in indigent circumstances, he took to gaol as soon as the law would permit; but such as were in a different situation were entertained in his house till all their money was spent, or they insisted upon going to prison, to avoid further imposition, or till the writs by which they were detained became returnable.

The money he extorted from his guests, by divers stratagems, was so considerable, that he held the fees usually paid at lock-up houses as

almost beneath his regard, and frequently distributed them among his followers, and other servants.

Bolland was continually endeavoring to encourage card-playing in his house; and, when his unfortunate guests had recourse to that diversion for employing the tedious moments of confinement, he seldom failed to join in the game; and though he suffered no opportunity of cheating them, even in the most palpable manner, to escape him, they were obliged to submit to the insult and imposition; for, if they ventured to expostulate on the unfairness of his proceedings, it was his custom to discharge a volley of blasphemous oaths, and to threaten that he would instantly take them to gaol, for daring to affront him in his own house.

Some of his prisoners hoping their affairs would be speedily compromised, and others, who were not so happy as to entertain such favorable expectations, wishing to remain as long as possible without the walls of a prison, the insolence of the tyrant was usually submitted to by men who, had not their spirits been depressed by the weight of misfortunes, would have disdained to be made the dupes of such atrocious and palpable villainy.

Though the emoluments arising from the infamous practices of Bolland were very considerable, they were not equal to the expenses of his profligate course of life.

His wine-merchant, and many other persons, having demands upon him that he was unable to discharge, he procured a person to sue out a commission of bankruptcy against him; but before the commission took place he secreted his most valuable effects; and he farther defrauded his creditors, by giving notes and other securities to a number of people who had received no valuable considerations from him;

and by means of these nominal creditors he obtained his certificate in a very short time.

Among a number of frauds committed while he lived in the Borough was the following :—He went into Oxfordshire, and there purchased a string of horses. Having paid for them, he expressed a desire of having a mare, which the owner positively refused to sell : however, the following morning Bolland took away the horses he had bought, and with them the mare, wholly unknown to the person whose property she was. The owner of the mare intended to prosecute Bolland for the felony ; but he was dissuaded from that measure, and advised to draw a bill upon him for the value of the beast. Bolland accepted the bill, but he became a bankrupt before the time of payment arrived.

The infamous practices of Bolland had now rendered his character so notorious, that the attorneys imagined that, if they continued to employ him, they should be reflected upon for encouraging so abandoned a villain ; and such repeated and heavy complaints were made against him that his business rapidly declined ; but, instead of endeavoring to obtain better success by an amendment of his conduct, he seized every opportunity of practising extortion and fraud with greater rapacity, and became a still more abominable pest to society.

He resolved to move from Surrey into the county of Middlesex, where he expected more frequent opportunities would occur for gratifying his avaricious and oppressive disposition.

Notwithstanding the infamy that was justly annexed to the character of this accomplished villain, he procured persons to become his bonds-

men, and made interest to be nominated one of the officers to the sheriff of the county of Middlesex.

He opened a spunging-house in the Savoy ; but it was some time before he had a prospect of success. He industriously sought every opportunity of joining in conversation with attorneys, and, by an artful insinuating conduct, at length ingratiated himself into the favour of several of that fraternity, who were not very remarkable either for discernment or integrity, and his business gradually increased.

Bolland was an almost daily frequenter of places where billiards and other games were practised ; and at one of these meetings he fell into company with a gentleman, who employed him to arrest the captain of a ship in the East-India service, for a debt of three hundred pounds, promising him a handsome compliment on condition of his recovering the money or taking the prisoner into custody. Bolland assured his employer that he would use his utmost endeavors to serve the writ the next day.

The following morning the gentleman set out for the country, and in the course of the day Bolland arrested the captain, who immediately paid the debt and costs.

In a short time the captain proceeded on his voyage ; and the gentleman, at whose suit he had been arrested, coming to London soon afterwards, Bolland waited upon him, and said, though he had made use of every stratagem he could possibly devise, the captain had eluded all his art, and got to sea ; and, in order to enhance the promised gratuity, he pretended that his extraordinary vigilance to serve the writ had involved him in much trouble and some expense, for the truth of which he appealed to his followers, who readily supported all the falsi-

ties advanced by their wicked employer; and the gentleman being thus deceived, he made Bolland a handsome present.

Upon the return of the ship from the East Indies, a fresh writ was taken out; but, Bolland being gone to a horse-race, it was given to another officer.

The bailiff went to Blackwall, and, presently finding the captain, said he must either pay the three hundred pounds, or go with him to a place of security; but the captain showing the officer Bolland's receipt for the money, he returned to town, and informed his employer that the debt was discharged to Bolland previous to the captain's sailing for India.

A suit at law was now instituted against Bolland for the recovery of three hundred pounds. Justice was so indisputably clear on the side of the plaintiff that Bolland knew he must inevitably be cast if the matter came to trial; yet, at considerable expense, he protracted a judicial decision of the case, imagining his adversary would give up his claim rather than pursue him through all the delays and chicanery of the law.

The cause at length was brought to a hearing, and, judgment being pronounced in favour of the plaintiff, Bolland, being surrendered by his bail, was taken in execution. He was conducted to a lock-up house, where he remained some time, and then moved himself by habeas corpus to the Fleet Prison, from which place he was released by virtue of an act of insolvency.

Bolland, and a person with whom he had contracted an acquaintance in the Fleet, were enlarged nearly at the same time; and the latter soon after went into business, and found means to procure bondsmen for his companion, who was again

appointed an officer to the sheriff of Middlesex.

Bolland now hired a large house in Great Shire Lane, near Temple Bar; but, that the outward appearance might not convey an intimation of the severe and tyrannical treatment that was to be exercised within, the windows were not, according to the general custom at spunging-houses, secured with iron bars.

When prisoners came into the house, he informed them that it was his custom to charge six shillings per day for board and lodging; adding, that the entertainment would be such as should give universal satisfaction, and that all trouble and disagreements concerning reckonings would be avoided; and such as refused to comply with these exorbitant terms were instantly conducted to gaol.

When Bolland's prisoners appeared inclinable to remove to the King's Bench or Fleet, he used every artifice he could suggest for detaining them in his house till they had exhausted the means of supplying his extravagant avarice; but, when their money was expended, no entreaties could prevail on the merciless villain to give them credit for the most trifling article, or to suffer them to continue another hour in his house.

His common excuse for his rapacious and brutal conduct was, that he incurred very considerable expense by supporting a house for accommodating gentlemen; and such as wished to be treated consistently with that character must pay accordingly.

Notwithstanding the public infamy of Bolland's character, he transacted perhaps more than double the business of any man in the same profession.

Not satisfied with the great emo-



luments he derived from cruelly oppressing his unhappy prisoners, he had recourse to practices which, though not less injurious in themselves, were more calculated to bring him under the censure of the law.

He defrauded a great number of tradesmen of property to a considerable amount; and among them was an upholsterer, of whom he obtained household furniture to the value of two hundred pounds, under false pretences.

Though Bolland was a married man, he was violently addicted to the company of abandoned women; and, when his wife expostulated on the impropriety of his illicit connexions, he applied to her the most disgraceful epithets, accompanied with volleys of profane oaths, and frequently beat her in a barbarous manner.

His conversation proved the vulgarity of his breeding, and his whole behaviour marked him as a worthless and detestable character.

These disqualifying circumstances, however, proved no impediment to his being received on terms of familiarity by several women who were in the keeping of persons of distinction. But this will be no longer surprising, when it is considered that money is ever a sufficient recommendation to the favour of that abandoned part of the sex who subsist on the wages of prostitution.

Bolland frequently took debtors into custody who had sought shelter within the verge of the Board of Green Cloth; and for an offence of this kind he was once called before the board, and ordered to pay the sum for which he had illegally detained the complaining party.

Bolland was connected with two men of infamous characters; one of whom was chiefly employed in dis-

covering persons on whom the arts of villainy might be practised with the most success; and the other was an attorney, by whose assistance Bolland was frequently relieved from embarrassments, and enabled to execute his villainous projects in such a manner as to evade the punishment of the law.

Bolland, and his two associates above mentioned, got possession of a bill for thirty pounds that had been stolen out of a gentleman's pocket. The bill was presented for payment, which was refused, the party on whom it was drawn alleging that it had been stolen. Hereupon the attorney wrote to the gentleman that an arrest would follow, unless the bill was immediately discharged. The answer signified that, if an arrest was resolved upon, the writ might be left with an attorney in Chancery Lane, who would put in bail.

Mortified and disappointed by the spirited repulse they had received, and despairing of obtaining cash for the bill by means of threats, they determined to arrest the gentleman, and take him to Bolland's house, where they supposed they could scarcely fail of extorting some money from him.

A messenger was dispatched to desire the gentleman's company at the King's Head Tavern, in Brydges Street. He attended according to the appointment, and was arrested by Bolland; who, pretending to be desirous of acting with all possible lenity, told the gentleman that he would waive his power of taking him to a place of confinement, lest his reputation should be injured, on condition that he would give him proper security. Hereupon the gentleman deposited thirty pounds in Bolland's hands; but the note was still detained, with a view of gaining further advantage.

The gentleman communicated all the circumstances that had come to his knowledge to his attorney, who moved the Court of King's Bench for a rule.

Bolland and his accomplices, however, determined still to contest the matter, though they were conscious that the cause must certainly be decided in favour of their adversary.

When prisoners came into Bolland's house he immediately employed his followers to make particular inquiries into the state of their pecuniary affairs, and the extent of their connexions; and, according to the information he received, he suggested plans for deceiving his unhappy guests.

A young gentleman, whose imprudences had drawn upon him the displeasure of his friends, was arrested at the suit of his tailor, and confined in Bolland's house.

His money being soon expended, and despairing of being able to effect a compromise with his creditor, he expressed a desire of being removed to the King's Bench or the Fleet.

Bolland informed him that he must be taken to Newgate, that being the gaol for the county, and that he could not be moved to either of the other prisons but by means of a writ of habeas corpus.

The young gentleman was greatly alarmed at the idea of being confined in Newgate, which he supposed to be a place for the reception of felons only.

Bolland, perceiving his anxiety, advised him to recall his resolution, saying that, if he would follow his direction, a method might still be adopted for relieving him from all his difficulties. Anxious to recover his liberty, the youth said, if Bolland would signify the means by which so desirable a purpose was to

be attained, he would gladly embrace the proposal, and ever consider him his most generous benefactor.

Hereupon Bolland informed him that he would immediately procure bail; and then recommended him to different tradesmen, of whom he might procure a chariot and horses, household furniture, and other effects, on credit; adding, that he would find no difficulty in obtaining a fortune by marriage before he would be called upon for the discharge of his debts.

The young man being released on the bail of two of Bolland's accomplices, a chariot was procured, and a house hired and furnished very elegantly; and one of Bolland's followers assumed the character of a footman, from the double motive of assisting in the scheme of villainy, and reporting to his principal all the particulars of the conduct of the imprudent young man.

Reports were industriously propagated that the youth was heir to an immense fortune; and, by a variety of stratagems, effects to a considerable amount were obtained from different tradesmen, the greater part of which were deposited in Bolland's house, by way of security to him for the bail he had procured.

Payment for the furniture and other effects being demanded, the creditors were for some time amused by a variety of plausible pretences: but at length they became exceedingly importunate for their money; and Bolland, now concluding that the young man could no longer be made subservient to his villainous stratagems, surrendered him in discharge of his bail, and caused him to be conveyed to Newgate.

The persons whom he had been seduced to defraud were no sooner acquainted with the imprisonment

of the young adventurer than they lodged detainers against him.

His unfortunate connexions having greatly exasperated his relations and friends, they refused to afford him any kind of assistance, and his situation became truly deplorable.

His present distress, and the upbraidings of conscience for the impropriety of his conduct, overwhelmed him with affliction, which soon put a period to his life.

Bolland, ever regarding the wreck he occasioned with apathy, went on his course of wickedness. He provided Jew, or fictitious, bail for persons who were under arrest; and, when he knew that the parties whom he himself arrested were not in desperate circumstances, he frequently released them, after exacting money from them, and a promise to surrender if they could not compromise matters with their creditors. He applied to these people to become bail for others, who paid him in proportion to the sums for which they were arrested; and, circumstanced as they were, it was seldom that he met a refusal; for, upon their making the least hesitation, he threatened to take them into custody, and convey them instantly to prison.

He provided genteel apparel for Jews, and other men in desperate circumstances, and encouraged them to commit perjury, by bribing them to swear themselves housekeepers and men of property, in order that their bail might be admitted.

Having supplied two men of most profligate characters with genteel clothes, they attended him to Westminster Hall, and there justified bail for sums to a considerable amount, though they were not possessed of property to the value of twenty shillings.

After the business these three infamous associates adjourned to a

tavern in Covent Garden; and, while they were regaling themselves, some of Sir John Fielding's officers took the two men who had justified bail into custody, on a charge of highway robbery.

They were convicted at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; and soon afterwards Bolland, being a sheriff's officer, attended them to Tyburn, where they were hanged in the very apparel that he himself had provided for them.

A publican in Cecil Street, in the Strand, named Wilkinson, went into Lancashire, in the year 1768, upon a visit to his relations, leaving the care of his house to a female servant. Upon the landlord's return he found that two men had taken possession of his household goods and stock of liquors under a warrant of distress. He asked by what authority they had made a seizure of his effects; and the reply was, that, if he presumed to dispute their authority, they would knock out his brains, or put him to death in some other manner.

Wilkinson made application to Justice Kynaston, and made an affidavit that Bolland had no legal claim upon him. A warrant was granted for the recovery of Wilkinson's goods, but before it could be put into execution the greatest part of them had been moved from the premises.

The following day Bolland caused Wilkinson to be arrested for five hundred and fifty pounds, which was falsely alleged to be a debt he had some time before contracted.

The unfortunate Wilkinson, being unable to procure bail for so considerable a sum, moved himself to the King's Bench.

The attorney employed by Wilkinson was an accomplice of Bolland's; and, under the pretence of



defending him against the machinations of that accomplished villain, he extorted from him his last shilling; and, after the unhappy man had suffered a long imprisonment, in a most deplorable state of poverty, he was restored to liberty by virtue of an act of insolvency.

In the preceding part of this narrative we have mentioned that Bolland had formed a connexion with a fellow-prisoner in the Fleet, through whose interest bondsmen were procured when he a second time commenced officer to the sheriff of Middlesex.

Learning some time after that this man had apartments elegantly furnished in the neighbourhood of Gray's Inn, he falsely swore a debt against him; and, in conjunction with one of his accomplices, who was a lawyer, sued out a judgment, and obtained a warrant of distress for the seizure of his effects, which were conveyed to Bolland's house.

The injured party applied to the Court of King's Bench for redress, and attachments were issued against the delinquents: but before they could take effect the attorney had absconded; and Bolland was in custody, charged with the capital offence for which he suffered; and therefore no redress was to be obtained.

A captain in the navy going a voyage, and not leaving his wife sufficiently provided with money, she contracted a debt to the amount of thirty pounds, for which she gave a note. The note not being paid when it became due, the creditor ordered Bolland to serve a writ upon the unhappy woman. After she had remained some days a prisoner in his house he procured bail for her, on her paying him five guineas.

In a few days she was again taken into custody, Bolland urging

that, upon making inquiry into her affairs, the bail deemed themselves not secure, and had surrendered her from motives of prudence.

Terrified at the idea of going to prison, she paid him ten guineas for procuring bail a second time; but he insisted on having a bond to confess judgment for the furniture of her house, as a collateral security. Being ignorant of the nature of the security proposed, she complied with the terms offered by the villain, who, on the following day, entered upon judgment, and took possession of her effects.

Upon discovering that she had been made a dupe to the consummate art and villainy of Bolland, the unfortunate woman was driven almost to distraction, and while in that state of mind she attempted to set fire to the house, in consequence of which a warrant was granted for apprehending her, and she was accordingly committed to Newgate.

In a short time the husband returned to England, and Bolland bribed an infamous woman to swear a false debt against him, in consequence of which he was arrested, and, being in confinement at the time of his wife's trial at the Old Bailey, she was deprived of that assistance he might have afforded her. She was convicted, and sentenced to suffer death; but, her cause being espoused by a number of humane persons, they drew up an authentic state of her case, which was presented to the king, who was graciously pleased to grant her an unconditional pardon.

Bolland formed a connexion with a prostitute, towards whom a sailor, then abroad, entertained a strong attachment. Upon the sailor's return he gave three hundred pounds into the care of the woman, proposing at the same time to espouse her, and saying he meant to take a

public house in Wapping. The woman communicated the sailor's proposal to Bolland, and they formed a plan of defrauding him of his money.

By Bolland's direction she intimated to him that three hundred pounds was not a sum sufficient to carry on the trade of a publican with a prospect of success, and advised him to leave the money he had already acquired to her care, and make another voyage. The unsuspecting seaman complied, and in a short time after he had sailed Bolland got the three hundred pounds into his possession, and applied it to his own use.

Bolland's behaviour to the woman was for some time exceedingly kind: but he at length procured a fellow to charge her with a false debt; and being taken to prison, she survived only a short time, during which she labored under the severest afflictions of poverty and disease.

The sailor, having completed his voyage, no sooner landed in England than he hastened to the house where his mistress had resided; and, having learnt the particulars of her conduct, vexation and disappointment had such an effect upon his mind, that the recovery of his reason was for a long time judged to be doubtful.

Bolland being ordered, by an attorney in the city, to serve a writ on a colonel in his majesty's service for one hundred pounds, he arrested the gentleman the next day, and was paid the debt and costs; but, instead of delivering the money for the plaintiff's use, he declared that he had not served the writ. The attorney, however, soon learning that the debt was discharged, commenced a suit against the sheriffs; and the persons who had become sureties for Bolland

were compelled to pay the hundred pounds, with full costs.

The colonel had neglected to take Bolland's receipt, and of this circumstance the villain determined to avail himself. He, a second time, arrested the gentleman for a hundred pounds: the action was bailed, and a trial ensued, in the course of which a witness swore that he was present when the colonel paid Bolland a hundred pounds, and costs, in discharge of the writ. Upon this the jury pronounced in favour of the colonel.

Though Bolland's character was notorious throughout the kingdom, he might, perhaps, have continued his depredations much longer, had not his infamous practices been exposed in the newspapers by the person whom we have already mentioned his being acquainted with in the Fleet, and whose effects he seized in the neighbourhood of Gray's Inn under a warrant of distress, obtained by swearing to a false debt.

When the sheriffs were informed of Bolland's villainy, they were highly exasperated against him, and suspended him from acting as their officer, and assigned the bail-bonds as security, by which the parties he had injured might obtain some recompense.

Bolland's avarice was so excessive, and his inclination to villainy so strong, that his being deprived of the power of following his usual practices proved the source of much uneasiness. He was advised to act under the Marshalsea Court; but he rejected the proposal, alleging that a compliance would *degrade* his character, after having long moved in so superior a line of life.

The office of upper city-marshal becoming vacant by the decease of Osmond Cook, Esq. Bolland determined to dispose of part of his in-

famously acquired property in the purchase thereof.

The place being put up for sale by auction, he became the purchaser for two thousand four hundred pounds. Having paid the deposit money, which was lodged in the chamberlain's office, he anxiously waited for the approbation of the court of aldermen, which was only wanting to give him that power over the citizens which he was pre-determined to abuse.

A letter was addressed to the lord-mayor and court of aldermen, exhibiting Bolland's character in all its horrid deformity; and proper inquiries being made, the facts appeared to be well founded; in consequence of which the court of aldermen refused him the place, and ordered the chamberlain to return the deposit money.

He declared that he would commence a suit at law against the court of aldermen for the recovery of damages; and, when the recorder communicated to him the very strong reasons that had induced the Court to deem him unqualified for the place of city-marshal, he behaved in a manner extremely reprehensible.

To contest the matter with the city he found not likely to produce him any advantage; and, one of the sergeants-at-mace at that time resigning his office, he formed the resolution of purchasing his place, which was denied him, though he offered a sum considerably above the usual price.

The deposit money still remained in the chamberlain's office, under an attachment taken out by his sureties, on account of their bail-bonds being assigned over for the benefit of the persons who had suffered through his iniquitous proceedings.

A man named Jesson had discounted a note for Bolland; some

time after which they met at the George and Vulture Tavern, in Cornhill, when the former desired the note might be redeemed. The other said he then happened to be short of cash, but produced a note of hand for one hundred pounds, given by Mr. Bradshaw, offering to take up the other note, if Jesson would take Bradshaw's security, and return the overplus. To this Jesson agreed, and, while he was counting the money, Bolland endorsed the note; which being observed by the other, he said he had no doubt as to the responsibility of Bradshaw, but that Bolland's name would render the note unnegotiable. Bolland then took a knife, and erased all the letters of his surname, excepting the first, and in their room inserted *anks*; after which he delivered the note to Jesson.

On the following day Jesson requested a person named Cardineaux to discount the note he had received from Bolland; and Cardineaux paid him fifteen pounds ten shillings on account, desiring him to call the next day for the balance.

The next Saturday, Cardineaux, Jesson, and Bolland, met at a tavern in Queen Street; when Cardineaux questioning Bolland respecting *Banks*, the name indorsed upon the note, he said Banks was a victualler, in the neighbourhood of Rathbone Place, in an extensive and reputable way of business. Cardineaux, saying he was fully satisfied, paid Jesson the balance in his favour, in some small notes, and a draft upon his banker.

Cardineaux, having occasion for cash, carried the note to his banker, who discounted it; and soon after Bradshaw was declared a bankrupt.

Cardineaux now applied to Jesson, desiring that, as Bradshaw had failed, he would provide money to take up the note when it became



due. Jesson had recourse to Bolland; but he refused to take up the note, and even denied that Jesson had received it of him.

Cardineaux, Jesson, and Bolland, met at the Edinburgh Coffee-house the next day, when the former introduced a conversation respecting Bradshaw's note; in the course of which Bolland said that his endorsement did not appear upon the note, and that it had not passed through his hands. Upon this Cardineaux said Jesson had mentioned his having altered the endorsement from Bolland to Banks; and Bolland then desired all disputes might subside, and promised that the note should be discharged when it became due.

The note was delivered to a person named Morris, who showed it to a gentleman of the law, and related to him the particulars of Bolland's conduct; in consequence of which a prosecution was resolved on.

Bolland being apprehended, a man was sent, in the name of Banks, to carry the money to Cardineaux, who gave a receipt for it, telling him that the note he had to redeem was

in the possession of Morris, and would be detained, in order to be produced at the Old Bailey as evidence against Bolland.

The prisoner being brought to trial, his counsel exerted their utmost abilities to prove that he had not committed forgery; but the jury found him guilty on the indictment. When sentence of death had been pronounced against him the recorder pathetically exhorted him to employ the short time he had to live in preparing for eternity, and not to deceive himself in the expectation of a pardon, which there was not the slightest reason to suppose would be granted.

He, on the morning of his execution, March the 18th, 1772, acknowledged that he had been guilty of innumerable sins; but declared that the fact for which he was to die was not committed with a view to defraud.

The body of this malefactor was taken to Highgate in a hearse, and in the evening carried to an undertaker's in Prince's Street, Drury Lane, whence it was conveyed to Bunhill Fields for interment.

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### ROBERT POWEL,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

This unhappy victim to the violated laws of his country was a native of Merioneth, in North Wales. His parents were poor people, but were distinguished by the honesty and regularity of their conduct. They educated him as well as their circumstances would permit them; and then sent him to London, in the hope that he might be able to advance himself in life.

Powel had not been long in town before he obtained the place of a shopman, in the service of a tradesman of reputation. In this station his behaviour was so unexception-

able, and there was so much of gracefulness in his person and manner, that his master soon raised his wages, and sought every opportunity of promoting his interest: indeed every person in the family was pleased with the decorum that appeared in all his behaviour; which was laid down as a rule of conduct that ought to be observed and copied by the other servants.

By an even and steady course of frugality Powel saved money enough to embark in business for himself; and, on the death of his master, he courted the sister of

Mr. Taylor Barrow, who held a place of some importance in the Custom-house. Mr. Barrow, exclusive of his place, carried on a considerable business; and Mr. Powel, having engaged in trade, was as successful as the most sanguine of his friends could have wished him to be; and, in general, was looked upon to be a young man in a thriving way of business.

In fact, he was soon in very flourishing circumstances, and his success induced him, contrary to the advice of his friends, to take a large farm a few miles from the metropolis; which took up more of his time and attention than it can be presumed a tradesman could spare from his business; so that the wonder will be less that ruin should ensue.

Having involved himself by undertaking too many concerns, he was reduced in circumstances, and determined on the commission of that forgery which cost him his life.

His brother-in-law, Mr. Taylor Barrow, was possessed of very considerable property in the East-India stock. Powel being apprized of this, and knowing that stock bore a very high price at that time, forged his name to an order for the selling out four hundred pounds.

This being done, he went to a coffee-house, and inquired for a broker. The master of the house recommended him to a Mr. Portis, who was largely concerned in the brokery business. Mr. Portis, being sent for, attended Powel to the East-India House in Leadenhall Street, where the latter declared that he was Taylor Barrow, the proprietor of the stock, which he transferred by imitating the hand of his brother-in-law with so much art, that no suspicion arose of the forgery.

On the day the stock was trans-

ferred Portis sold it to a third person, and, giving the produce to Powel, he immediately quitted his family, and went into Wales, on a visit to his relations.

It was not long before a discovery was made of the forgery, and a large reward was offered for the apprehension of Powel; but Portis being totally unacquainted with his name, and none of his friends or relations conceiving that he could have been concerned in such a transaction, no suspicion of his guilt arose for a considerable time.

In the mean time Portis exerted his utmost diligence to discover the offender: but all his endeavors proved fruitless, till a circumstance, merely accidental, occasioned his apprehension. Powel continued in Wales till he presumed the affair was forgotten in London, where he was received in the most affectionate manner by his relations, who had no idea of what had passed; for, if they had, they would undoubtedly have advised him to consult his safety in flight.

Powel now lived on Dowgate Hill; and, about a month after his return to London, he went to Cheapside on business, and after that to Lombard Street, when Mr. Portis met him near the Post-office.

Powel happened at this time to be dressed in the same clothes that he wore when the forgery was committed; and Mr. Portis immediately recollected his person, but was unwilling to take him into custody till he was fully convinced that he was not mistaken in the man. Powel, observing that Portis regarded him with some attention, turned his face aside, from a consciousness of guilt, and to prevent the other from having a full knowledge of him.

Mr. Portis passed him, but immediately turned back, and took a

second, and afterwards a third view of him; when, no doubt remaining in his mind that he was the real offender, he took him by the arm, and begged him to accompany him to the coffee-house where they had first met. Powel pretended not to have any knowledge of the other party; but Portis resolutely insisting that he should go with him, the latter complied with as much grace as he could, to prevent any disturbance happening in the street.

They no sooner got to the coffee-house than the master and one of the waiters, at the desire of Portis, paid an attentive regard to Powel, and averred that he was the man who had asked for the broker to sell the stock.

On this the prisoner was taken before the sitting alderman at Guildhall, and, his person being positively sworn to, the magistrate committed him to Newgate, in order to his being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey.

When the trial came on the culprit produced a number of people to prove that he was in the country at the time the forgery was committed; but the jury, not being satisfied with their testimony, brought in their verdict that he was guilty.

When he was taken to the bar to receive sentence of death, his counsel moved that the judgment might be postponed, 'on account of some informalities in the record;' and the Court, ever attentive to the laws of humanity, acceded to the motion.

The consequence was, that in Michaelmas term, 1771, the case was learnedly argued before the judges, who were unanimously of opinion that Powel had been guilty of the forgery; whereupon sentence was passed that he should undergo the judgment awarded by law.

After condemnation his behaviour

was highly proper for a man in his unhappy situation. He was earnest and regular in his devotions, made every proper preparation for death, and resigned himself to his fate with the composure that became a Christian, who placed his hopes on a better world than that, to a longer residence in which he had forfeited his title.

He was indulged with a mourning-coach to the place of execution, where his conduct was such as proved him properly affected by his situation. He appeared sincere and ardent in his devotions; and after he was turned off, and his body had hung the usual time, it was delivered to his friends for interment.

Robert Powel suffered at Tyburn on the 2d of January, 1772.

In the case of this offender we see the almost absolute impossibility of concealing a guilty transaction. His name was unknown to Portis; his crime was a secret even from his relations; and he remained in Wales till he thought the affair was forgotten: yet he had been but a short time in London before he found himself in Newgate for the commission of that very crime which he flattered himself had been effectually concealed; and an ignominious death followed.

Mysterious are the ways of Providence, and past finding out. Who that reads this story will scruple to admire that divine wisdom and justice which cannot be comprehended?

If Powel could have been contented with his situation he might have lived in credit and reputation. The keeping of farms near London has been the ruin of many a tradesman. A regular attention to one branch of business is generally productive of more profit than the embarking in a variety of schemes; and as such we would recommend it to all our readers who are engaged in the mercantile line.



## SAMUEL ROBERTS AND THOMAS BACCHUS,

EXECUTED FOR COINING.

THE first-mentioned of these malefactors was a native of Shrewsbury. He was descended of parents of very fair character, but in circumstances rather contracted: however, they gave him what education was in their power, and then apprenticed him to a baker.

After the expiration of the term of his apprenticeship he repaired to the metropolis, and labored as a journeyman with different masters for a considerable time, still supporting the character of an industrious and honest man. Some friends, observing the goodness of his disposition, advanced him money, with which he took a shop in Gray's Inn Lane, and met with such success in business as rewarded his assiduity.

At length, very unhappily for himself, he became acquainted with the father of Bacchus, from the casual meeting him at a public house. Soon after their acquaintance the old man advised him to remove into Southwark, where he said an excellent house and shop offered for his accommodation. Roberts, being married, and having four children, listened to this advice, in the hope of making a better provision for his family.

A very short time after his residence in Southwark, the elder Bacchus and his son, with some other people who were coiners, told Roberts that they would be ready to assist him with money on any emergency. It happened that, some little time afterwards, Roberts wanted some money to make up a bill due for flour; on which he mentioned the affair to the elder Bacchus, and he was immediately furnished with the requisite sum.

This circumstance had not long taken place, when the younger

Bacchus informed Roberts that his father was out of town, and begged his assistance in coining, on the condition of which he should be amply supplied with such money as he might want.

Roberts hesitated for a while to comply with a scheme big with such evident destruction; but, the prospect of gain becoming at length too strong for his more virtuous resolutions, he fatally consented, and ruin was the consequence. The nature of the partnership (for such it may be deemed) was this: Bacchus was generally the immediate coiner of the counterfeit money, which Roberts put off to unsuspecting people. They had imitated a variety of gold and silver coin, which was so well executed that it could hardly be distinguished from the real money made at the Tower; yet the adulteration was so great, that, in many pieces, the intrinsic value was not a fourth of the nominal.

Great part of this counterfeit money was put off at country fairs, where the agents employed to dispose of it (for there were others besides Roberts) appeared as horse-dealers, and found several country tradesmen ready enough to traffic with them for this false coin.

The coiners used to sell this money by weight to the countrymen, who circulated it in the course of their connexions; so that the evil spread wide, to the injury of many an unfortunate individual.

In the interim Bacchus and Roberts lived in a very handsome manner on the profits of their iniquitous trade. Their neighbours could not conceive how they procured a subsistence; and it is possible that they might have continued their practices a considerable time

longer, but that one of their accomplices gave such hints as led to the ready means of detecting them.

Some constables being employed to search the house, they found Bacchus, with all the implements proper for coining, in the act of making counterfeit money, while Roberts was assisting him in this unlawful transaction: on which both the parties were taken into custody; and, being carried before Sir John Fielding, that magistrate committed them to Newgate.

It may be now proper to mention that Bacchus was a native of the town of Stafford, and was, at a very early age, initiated into the art of coining by his father, who seems purposely to have trained him to the gallows. The younger Bacchus never followed any business but coining, except occasionally dealing in smuggled goods, when he happened to have a considerable sum of money in his possession.

The prisoners remained in Newgate several months before they were brought to trial; but at length they were convicted on the clearest evidence, and sentenced to die.

The behaviour of Roberts after conviction was exceedingly well adapted to his unhappy situation. He was regular and devout in his attendance on religious duties, employed much time in reading books of devotion, and was regardful of the instructions given him by the Ordinary of Newgate. On learning that the warrant for his execution was arrived his seriousness and penitence appeared to be augmented, and he looked forward to eternity in the humble hope of the divine pardon.

Nor was the behaviour of Bacchus less regular, penitent, and devout. He made a decent preparation for his approaching death. The father of Bacchus had retired

into the country, whence he sent his son a letter after condemnation, of which the following is a copy:

‘My dear child,—I send you these few lines to comfort you: I should have sent you some money before, but I hope, my dear child, you will forgive me, as you hope to be forgiven in heaven. There you will find a better Father than you have found in me. Be as happy as you can: you are going to happiness, and leave me behind to be miserable. I hope you will die happy, because you know you are innocent. Thou art now going—I shall soon follow thee. I hope you will meet your dear mother in heaven. As we shall soon part in this world, may my prayers be heard for you in heaven! From your loving father till death,

‘WILLIAM BACCHUS.

‘P. S. My dear love to Roberts; and tell him, if it should be in my power to serve his family, I will—I shall think it a pleasure. May heaven receive you both!’

The unhappy convicts received the holy sacrament on the morning of execution, and behaved in a manner suitable to their calamitous circumstances. They were drawn to the gallows on a sledge, as is usual in the case of coiners. They warned the multitude not to follow their evil example, and acknowledged the justice of that sentence by which they had been condemned to an ignominious death.

After the customary exercises of devotion the prisoners underwent the final sentence of the law; and, when the bodies had hung the time prescribed, they were delivered to their relations, in order that they might be deposited with their parent earth.

Samuel Roberts and Thomas Bacchus were hanged at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1772.

In the course of these volumes we have had frequent occasion to

expatiate on the cases of coiners; but there is something singular in the affair before us. We see that the counterfeit money was sold by weight to people in the country, who could be mean enough to make such purchases, from avaricious motives; though they must know that their neighbours would be ultimately defrauded.

The younger Bacchus, though a professed coiner, appears to have

been in some measure an object of pity. His father had trained him to the business from his early youth; but surely that father ought to be the general object of execration. It is difficult to form an idea of the aggravated guilt of that man who can wilfully train his own child to destruction. The paternal and the filial duty ought to be mutual: a failure on either side is usually fatal to the happiness of one of the parties.

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### JONATHAN BRITAIN,

EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

This malefactor was first an errand-boy, next an attorney's writer, then usher to an academy, next a soldier, and at length (the end of all such restless men) a cheat and forger. He could not settle to any employ; and, when he had committed crimes which he well knew affected his life, he tried a curious method of evading justice, which we shall fully explain.

Jonathan Britain was born near Thirsk, in the county of York. His parents were poor people, not able to give him a liberal education; but they sent him to school for some time, till he had learned to read and write, and had made himself master of the common rules of arithmetic.

His parents sent him to York to an attorney, whom he was to serve as an errand-boy; but he had not been long in this station before his master discovered such uncommon marks of genius and ability in him, that he articulated him as a clerk, and took him into his office.

Happy would it have been for Britain if he could have been contented in this creditable situation; but an impatience of restraint induced him to leave a master who had behaved to him with so much civility.

He had not, however, been long

out of place, when the master of a public school employed him as a teacher of the mathematics, for which his own studies had qualified him; and he was promoted to be principal usher in the school.

In this situation he was as restless as in the former, and therefore quitted it, and entered as a soldier in the 10th regiment of dragoons.

As he was a man of remarkably fine appearance, he was taken great notice of by his officers, who paid such attention to him as very much flattered his vanity; and, inducing him to rival his superiors in point of expense, his circumstances were soon greatly reduced, and he had recourse to the art of chicanery and knavery to support his extravagance.

In these reduced circumstances he committed a variety of frauds, most of them of so artful a contrivance as to elude all possibility of detection.

He had a custom of introducing himself into the company of persons who had no suspicion of deceit, and then he would so far insinuate himself into their good opinion as to take undue advantage of their unsuspecting honesty.

Reduced to circumstances of great distress, he was tempted to the commission of forgery—a crime that



scarcely ever leaves the perpetrator even a chance of escape.

Having forged several drafts, he passed them at Bristol, and then repaired to London, in fear of detection. On his arrival in the metropolis he wrote several letters to the king, intimating that he had been concerned in setting fire to the dock-yard at Portsmouth.

No regard being paid to these letters to his majesty, he wrote to the lord-mayor, declaring that he was ready to surrender himself, and make a discovery of his accomplices, on the condition that his pardon should be promised in an advertisement in the London Gazette.

At length a pardon to any accomplice was advertised in the Gazette; on which Britain went to Reading to meet his wife, in consequence of a previous agreement; but on the very evening of his arrival in that town he offered some forged drafts in payment; the consequence of which was that he was apprehended, and lodged in gaol.

During his imprisonment at Reading he wrote a number of letters, which he contrived to transmit to distant parts of the kingdom; the contents of which intimated that he should be rescued, and many persons gave credit to the insinuations contained in these letters; but the whole turned out to be only a species of fraud and forgery.

Disappointed in this scheme, Britain had recourse to another, if possible, more extraordinary. He wrote letters, which he caused to be inserted in some of the newspapers, in which he charged Lord Mansfield, and the Earls of Halifax and Faulconbridge, together with other persons of rank, with having been bribed by the court of France to 'encourage the setting fire to the dock-yard at Portsmouth.'

Improbable as this story was, many people gave a temporary attention to it, and some even affected to believe it; but it was too absurd to obtain credit for any considerable time. It was a little unlucky for Britain's device that he charged Lord Faulconbridge with being of the Roman Catholic persuasion, though the contrary was known to be the fact. The absurdity of this story soon caused it to be treated with the contempt that it deserved.

At the next assizes for the county of Berks a bill of indictment for forgery was preferred against Britain, but thrown out by the grand jury, on what they considered as defective evidence; and his discharge would have ensued of course, but that three detainers were lodged against him, which kept him in prison at Reading till he was removed to Bristol by a writ of habeas corpus.

Britain was now visited by numbers of people, who from motives of curiosity wished to inquire into the validity of the tale he had invented respecting the fire; but they could make no satisfactory discoveries: they saw that the whole tale was a lie; yet they contributed to his immediate support in a manner so liberal as to do honour to their humanity.

On the commencement of the sessions he was arraigned on several indictments for forgery; but, being put to the bar, he refused to plead, and held in his hand the Gazette which contained the offer of pardon, insisting that he had 'given information against his accomplices who had set fire to the dock-yard at Portsmouth.'

On this he was informed by the recorder that he could take no notice of the proclamation inserted in the Gazette; but Britain, instead of paying attention to this declara-

tion, threw the Gazette upon the table where the clerk sat, and declared that a scheme was formed to deprive him of life, contrary to the due course of law.

The recorder then mentioned a late act of parliament, by which he would be deemed guilty if he refused to plead to the indictment: but the magistrate did not choose to proceed on the trial without being in possession of the act in question; on which a special messenger was sent to London, to procure the act if it could be had in print, or otherwise to bring an attested copy of it from the Record-office.

The messenger returning with the act of parliament in print at the end of two days, Britain was again brought to his trial, when he pleaded not guilty to the indictment. The recorder would have allowed him counsel, but he refused all such kind of assistance, and determined to plead for himself. He cross-examined the witnesses in a manner that gave sufficient testi-

mony of his abilities; but the evidence against him was such as not to admit of a doubt of his guilt; in consequence of which he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.

Before the passing of the dreadful sentence of the law, the recorder addressed him in the most pathetic terms, informed him that he had no reason to expect an interposition of the royal mercy, and entreated him to make every possible preparation for the ignominious fate that awaited him.

After this unhappy man had received sentence of death he seemed to abandon himself to despair, and was, in all respects, in a most horrid state of mind; yet he became a penitent before the day of his execution, which took place at Bristol, May the 15th, 1772.

'The weariest and most loathed worldly life  
That age, ache, penury, imprisonment,  
Can lay on nature, is a paradise  
To what we fear of death.'

SHAKSPEARE.

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### PETER M'CLOUD,

EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

THIS ill-fated youth was the son of a poor man at Shields, near Newcastle, who brought him to London while he was quite a child; and the father dying in a short time left the boy to the care, or, perhaps, more properly speaking, to the neglect of his mother, who was a woman of very doubtful character, and said to encourage young lads in the practice of theft.

M'Cloud had been connected with a lad named Younger, who had been concerned with him in a variety of irregular practices. At length M'Cloud engaged himself on board one of the colliers trading to Newcastle; and, while he was ab-

sent, Younger accused his mother of having been the receiver of stolen goods, the consequence of which was that she was apprehended, and brought to trial, but was discharged in defect of evidence.

M'Cloud returning from his voyage, and learning in what manner his mother had been treated by Younger, he made the most solemn vow of taking vengeance on him, whatever might be the consequence of such a proceeding.

That he might effect the ruin of his old companion in iniquity, he surrendered himself to a magistrate, and gave information that himself and Younger had been concerned

in a robbery; on which the latter was soon taken into custody, and committed to Newgate, M'Cloud being admitted an evidence for the crown against his presumed accomplices: but at the ensuing sessions M'Cloud was incapable of giving any thing like evidence against his companion, who was of course acquitted, and the scheme of revenge was consequently frustrated.

It is no less astonishing than true, that, notwithstanding what had passed, these young fellows soon renewed their former connexion; so that whatever degree of malice might have harbored in the breast of M'Cloud, he seemed to have forgotten it in the wish to recommence his depredations on the public with his former accomplice in iniquity.

They now joined, with five or six other boys, in the practice of picking pockets, in which, for some time, they met with too much success; but their thefts were of the lowest kind, being principally confined to the stealing of handkerchiefs, in the practice of which they were frequently detected, but dismissed after receiving the discipline of the horse-pond. These young thieves were harbored at houses of ill fame in the neighbourhood of Saltpetre Bank.

One would have imagined that such repeated punishments as were inflicted on these boys might have deterred them from continuing their iniquitous practices: M'Cloud in particular had been so often dragged through horse-ponds, and exposed to the derision of the public, that he seemed to have lost all sense of shame, and his paltry gains by theft consoled him for the ignominy that attended it. He was three times tried at the Old Bailey for different offences, and had repeatedly the good fortune to escape, which ought

to have warned him to discontinue his depredations on the public.

At length, after a series of practice in the picking of pockets, the gang of young villains determined to commence housebreakers, for which they were qualified, not so much by their strength as by their artifice. They furnished themselves with a variety of tools proper for the wrenching doors and window-shutters. Occasionally they used to climb over roofs, enter at the garret windows of houses, and descend to the lower rooms to commit their robberies; and at other times they would enter through any small opening that had been casually left unguarded. When one or two of the smallest of them had got into a house, they used to go down stairs, and open the door for their associates. Sometimes only a part of the gang went in, and the rest waited to prevent detection from the arrival of any casual passenger.

It is almost incredible to think how many houses were robbed of very valuable effects by this little confederacy of villains; but their depredations were chiefly confined to Ratcliffe Highway and its neighbourhood, where a great number of persons were sufferers by their villainies.

At length three of the gang, of whom M'Cloud was one, repaired to Poplar, where they broke open the house of Joseph Hankey, Esq. in the dead of the night. The family were all asleep; but the barking of a dog awaking one of the servants, he alarmed the rest, and begged them to oppose the intruders. Two of the thieves made an immediate escape; but M'Cloud was apprehended, and lodged in the watch-house.

On the following day he was carried before a magistrate, who



committed him to Newgate ; and at the next sessions held at the Old Bailey he was brought to trial, capitally convicted, and sentenced to die.\*

For some time after conviction M'Cloud appeared hardened in a very high degree, nor paid any attention to the exhortations of the Ordinary of Newgate ; but, when he learnt that he was one of the convicts ordered for execution, a total alteration was visible in the whole of his conduct and behaviour. He apologized to the Ordinary for the indifference with which he had heretofore treated him. It happened at this time that Younger was in Newgate under sentence of transportation ; and M'Cloud, sending for him, begged his pardon for the injury that he had formerly attempted.

The unhappy convict continued in a serious disposition for the remainder of his life ; and on the morning of his death he received the sacrament, in company with the other malefactors who were to die with him.

When he arrived at the fatal tree, he requested a person to beg that his mother would not unrea-

sonably grieve at his death, as he had hopes that he was departing to the regions of eternal glory.

Peter M'Cloud suffered at Tyburn on the 27th of May, 1772.

There is something very shocking in the revenge of M'Cloud, which could instigate him to swear against Younger a fact that was never committed ; but there is, if possible, a still greater depravity of heart evidenced in his joining his former accomplice, the very one whose life he had solately attempted to take away,

Let us hope that this malefactor old as he was in sin, yet young in years, may have met with that mercy, the hope of which seemed to inspire his departing moments : but let no one be tempted to follow his example ; let young people, in particular, learn that the slightest deviation from the path of duty may lead to the most ignominious fate : but let not this be the *only* consideration ; let them consider that there is more of criminality in breaking the laws of God than in infringing those that are merely of human institution ; and may they regulate their conduct by the inferences they will draw from these considerations !

## JOSEPH GUYANT AND JOSEPH ALLPRESS,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING THE MAIL.

THE first-mentioned of these offenders was a native of Essex, descended from honest but poor parents, who gave him as good an education as consisted with their circumstances, and then bound him apprentice to a smith, with whom he served his time with fidelity, after which he labored as a journeyman in his own profession.

Quitting the county of Essex, he repaired to Edmonton, near London, where he married, and commenced business on his own account. For a considerable time he was as successful in trade as could be reasonably expected, but at length sustained a loss to which he attributed all his future misfortunes.

Guyant, having been out receiv-

\* It has been thought hard, by some persons, that the mere breaking into a house whence nothing is stolen should cost a man his life ; but it ought to be considered that the intent, in the eye of reason, constitutes the crime ; that the man who breaks a house means to rob it ; and that the punishment should follow of course.

ing money from several people who employed him, was stopped on his return to his own house by two footpads, who robbed him of above sixty pounds, and then bound him to a tree. This loss was a matter of great importance to him; but it was much aggravated by the consequences that followed it: for, as the robbery happened in the day time, he was advised to sue the county, to indemnify him for the loss; but, failing to adduce the necessary proofs, he lost his suit, and was involved in still farther difficulties by the consequence.

The expense of the suit being considerable, Guyant was arrested, and sought refuge in a prison. In consequence of a subscription among his friends, he removed himself to the Fleet, where he continued till an act for the relief of insolvent debtors enabled him to obtain his liberty.

He had at this time a family which was in want of the necessaries of life; but, during his imprisonment, he had acquired such a habit of idleness that he was still less disposed to provide for them than before. It will be now proper that we say something of Joseph Allpress, the person concerned with Guyant in robbing the mail.

Allpress was a native of St. Ives, in Huntingdonshire, and, like his accomplice, had served his apprenticeship to a smith. After his time was expired he labored a considerable time in draining the fens in the Isle of Ely; and then his ill fortune led him to Edmonton, where he contracted an acquaintance with Guyant, which ended in the most fatal consequences; for Guyant, having now lost all relish for a life of industry, persuaded the other to be concerned with him in deer-stealing.

This proposal was but too well relished by Allpress, who, without

reflecting on the dangerous tendency of such a practice, embarked in the scheme with Guyant, and they robbed the parks of several gentlemen in the neighbourhood.

Encouraged by what they deemed success, because they remained undetected, they broke into the church at Edmonton, and carried off some of the communion plate; but it was not known who were the offenders till after they were convicted of robbing the mail.

A very little time had passed after the sacrilege, when Guyant proposed to Allpress the fatal scheme which ended in the destruction of them both; intimating, at the same time, that their fortunes might be made by the putting off the bank-notes. Allpress declared that he had never seen a bank-note in his life, and confessed that he was very illiterate; but, overborne by the persuasions of the other, he at length agreed to be concerned in robbing the mail.

This shocking resolution being made, they lost no time in the attempt to carry it into execution, the first step to which was the preparing an axe, hardened to such a degree as to cut iron.

Having thus resolved on their plan, they waited in the road, at a place called Houndsfield, for the arrival of the northern mail. At length the post-boy arrived, and had with him a person named John Thomas, to whom he had given a lift on the road. Guyant stopped the horses of the mail-cart, and threatened instant destruction to Thomas and the driver, unless they immediately got down.

This threat was too terrible not to be complied with; on which the post-boy was ordered to drive his carriage into an adjacent field, and Thomas was compelled to attend him. The robbers now bound the other parties to a tree, and then

demanding the key of the mail-cart ; but, finding that it was not in possession of the driver, they took the cart across the field, broke it open with their axe, and then took out some of the bags, and buried a number of the notes in the earth.\*

The driver of the mail-cart, and his companion, remained bound to the tree till morning, when the latter happily freed himself, and then gave liberty to the other.

On searching for the horses, they found them grazing in the field, and discovered that the cart had been broken as above mentioned. The post-boy instantly drove to London, and gave proper notice of the injury that had been done.

The secretary of the General Post-office immediately advertised a reward of two hundred pounds for the discovery of the offenders ; but nothing transpired for some months, till at length Allpress ventured to London, to procure the acceptance of some of the stolen drafts ; the worst scheme that could possibly have been devised : for, the payment of these drafts being previously stopped, Allpress was taken into custody ; and, being carried before Sir John Fielding, he immediately confessed the fact, on which he was committed to prison, and some officers of justice sent in search of Guyant, who soon found him, and discovered several bags in a yard behind his house, in which were a number of letters which had been stolen from the mail.

Both offenders were lodged in Tothill Fields' Bridewell, and at the proper time removed to Newgate, in preparation for their trials at the Old Bailey ; where they were convicted on the fullest evidence, and received sentence of death.

After conviction, and indeed long before it, they exhibited the truest penitence that perhaps was ever observed by illiterate men in their unhappy situation. They were exceedingly attentive to the instructions of the Ordinary of Newgate, and made the devoutest preparations for their fatal exit.

On the morning of execution they received the sacrament with every mark of the sincerest contrition, and made a solemn declaration of their hope of eternal bliss through the merits of the Redeemer of mankind.

On their way to the place of execution they behaved with the utmost decency, and, when arrived at the fatal spot, Guyant was so weak that it was necessary for two men to support him while the executioner fixed the halter round his neck ; yet he was fervent in his devotions, notwithstanding his weakness.

Both the malefactors begged the spectators to take warning by their fatal exit, and, having finished their devotions, suffered the sentence of the law ; after which their bodies were cut down, and carried to Finchley Common, where they were hung in chains.

Joseph Guyant and Joseph Allpress were hanged at Tyburn on the 8th of July, 1772.

In the case of the malefactors before us we see a remarkable instance of the progressive nature of vice. Guyant and Allpress were first deer-stealers, then guilty of sacrilege, and at length ventured on the horrid plan of robbing the mail. Those who do not see, in this instance, the absurdity of encouraging the first emotions to vice, will not be convinced by any arguments that we can offer. We shall,

\* This circumstance first appeared on the examination of the prisoners at Sir John Fielding's, when the writer of this account was present, and saw the notes, discolored by lying in the ground.



therefore, drop the subject, to make a remark which is new in a work of this kind.

When these unhappy men were examined at the public office in Bow Street, there appeared a degree of contrition in their countenances and behaviour, that no language can describe. They solicited it as a favour of Sir John Fielding that they might be re-committed to Tothill Fields' Bridewell; alleging as a reason, that the devotions at that place were more regularly performed than at other prisons; and this we have good reason to believe to be the fact. The governor of that prison is a religious man, and laudably exerts himself in the instruction and edifi-

cation of the unhappy people who fall under his care. This is a rare instance, which cannot be sufficiently applauded; and we trust that Mr. Smith (the governor) will pardon the liberty we have now taken\* in mentioning his name on an occasion which is intended, and ought, to do him honour.

Happy would it be if every keeper of a prison was equally zealous to promote the eternal welfare of the unhappy persons committed to his care. But, while we say this, we must in common justice remark, that the prisons throughout England were never managed with a stricter regard to the laws of decency and regularity than at present.



*Adshead and Alsworth searched in St. Giles's Watch-house.*

## JOHN ADSHEAD AND BENJAMIN ALSWORTH, EXECUTED FOR HOUSEBREAKING.

THE former of these malefactors and trained up to the business of was a native of Northamptonshire, husbandry, which he followed till

\* In February, 1779.

he approached nearly to manhood, when he repaired to London, and lived in the service of different persons in quality of a footman.

By an attention to the rules of frugality he became possessed of a sum of money, ten guineas of which he gave to a person to instruct him in the art of a gunsmith; and, having acquired the knowledge of the art, he for some time labored industriously to support himself; but, getting into bad company, he was prevailed on to commence the dangerous practice of housebreaking. Becoming, at length, too well known in London, he was afraid of being discovered, and therefore repaired to Bristol, to commit his depredations in that city.

Soon after he arrived at Bristol he broke into the house of a watchmaker, and carried off effects to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds. These he conveyed to London, where he disposed of them, and with the produce took a public house in Princes Street, Drury Lane; but, no success attending him in this situation, he quitted business, and recommenced the practice of housebreaking, which ended in his destruction, as will be seen in the course of this narrative.

Alsworth (the other criminal) was a native of Birmingham, and followed the profession of gun-making. After practising his trade some time, he repaired to London, and, enlisting in the army, became a drummer in the 85th regiment of foot. He served in Portugal during the last war, in the reign of King George II. and was likewise present at the siege of Belleisle; but when the peace came on he returned to his original profession.

During his military life his behaviour was consistent with his duty. On his return to England he married a young woman, who

bore him two children; but, happening to become acquainted with Adshead, his ruin soon followed. These men were frequently in company; and Alsworth, observing that Adshead dressed in a style of gentility which he presumed to be above his circumstances, asked how he afforded to make such an appearance; to which the other replied, that an uncle, who was lately dead, had left him several articles of considerable value.

Their intimacy now daily increased; and Alsworth's children being indisposed, and himself deficient of employment, he asked the other to lend him three or four guineas, which he would not fail to return on a happier change in his circumstances.

Adshead said that he was not then in possession of so much money; but, if the other would take his advice, he would instruct him how to 'obtain a hundred pounds in an hour.'

Alsworth thought he spoke jestingly, but begged to know his real meaning; on which the other confessed that he subsisted by housebreaking, and invited his acquaintance to come to his lodgings that evening. This invitation was complied with, a copartnership in iniquity was agreed on, and they committed several burglaries; but that, of which we are now about to relate the particulars, brought them to their fatal end.

About one o'clock in the morning of the 18th of May, 1772; they broke into the house of Mrs. Bellamy, a widow lady, in New-man Street, Oxford Road, whence they carried off silk, wearing apparel, and other effects, to a considerable amount.

They packed the goods in two parcels, and proceeded towards Tottenham Court Road, where they were observed by two watchmen,



who followed them towards Russell Street, Bloomsbury, where they were noticed by another watchman, belonging to the parish of St. Giles, who seized on Alsworth; on which the other threw down his parcel and ran off, but was soon taken into custody.

Being conveyed to the watch-house, they were searched by the constable of the night, who likewise examined the parcels of stolen goods. On the following morning they were carried before Justice Cox, to whom they asserted that the things were their own property, and that they were removing them from their lodgings, to prevent their landlord seizing on them for rent.

This story did not seem to be at all plausible; and, as they refused to give an account of their place of residence, a well-grounded suspicion arose that they were thieves; on which they were committed for re-examination, when the persons who had been robbed could be found.

When Mrs. Bellamy's family arose in the morning, the servants discovered that the house had been robbed, as above mentioned. Hereupon hand-bills were instantly printed,\* and circulated through London; the consequence of which was that Justice Cox sent for Mrs. Bellamy and her servants, and, the prisoners being brought to a re-examination, the stolen effects were identified, and the two men were committed to Newgate for trial.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of June, 1772,

the prisoners were indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Mary Bellamy, widow, and stealing a gauze sack and petticoat, with silk and gold flowers, three silk sacks and petticoats, a brocaded silk night-gown, a chased gold outside watch-case, and a variety of other valuable articles, the property of Mrs. Bellamy and her daughter.

Adshad pleaded guilty to the indictment, begging for mercy on account of his youth; and the evidence against his accomplice was so conclusive, that the jury could not hesitate to convict him; in consequence of which they both received sentence of death.

After conviction their behaviour was very various. On some occasions they appeared hardened in a very high degree, and at others were free to confess the crime of which they had been guilty; but, when they found that their names were included in the warrant for execution, their behaviour was more regular, consistent, and penitent; and the Ordinary of Newgate, forming a favorable opinion of their sincerity, administered the sacrament to them, and gave them such advice as he deemed proper in their unhappy situation: he cautioned them not to trust to their own penitence, but to rely on the merits of Christ for eternal salvation.

On the day appointed for their execution the Ordinary attended them early in the morning, renewed his good advice, and besought them to fix their minds on a better world than that to which they were so

\* The immediate circulation of hand-bills is the readiest method of detecting thieves. This has been proved in a thousand instances that have occurred at the public office in Bow Street. Thieves generally carry stolen goods immediately to the pawnbrokers; but, when they do not, the bills frequently fall into the hands of peace-officers, and a discovery follows of course.



soon to bid a final adieu. On being put into the cart they shed many tears, and lifted up their eyes to heaven in the hope of that mercy whence alone, in their situation, it could be expected.

At the fatal tree they confessed that they were guilty of the crime of which they had been convicted, and cautioned their auditors never to be guilty of a similar violation of the laws of justice. An immense concourse of people attended this execution; and, when the bodies had hung the usual time, they were delivered to the friends of the deceased, in order for interment.

John Adshead and Benjamin Alsworth suffered at Tyburn on the 8th of July, 1772.

The reflections arising from the case of these men can but little deviate from those we have made on that of former housebreakers; but we see that a copartnership in iniquity is no bar to the inevitable consequences of guilt. Adshead's confession of his crime amounted to little less than an accusation of his accomplice, since they were both taken into custody almost immediately after the commission of the fact.

Upon consideration of the whole matter, it will appear evident that nothing can so effectually secure our peace of mind as a strict adherence to the laws of honesty, and a regular and constant attendance on the duties of religion.

## WILLIAM GRIFFITHS,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THE person robbed in this case was the celebrated and unfortunate Dr. Dodd, whom, a few years afterwards, Fate decreed to be hanged at the very spot where Griffiths suffered.

It will be seen that the divine, on the trial of this malefactor, as, indeed, in many other instances, evinced a mind that, it would have been conceived, could never prompt him to the commission of a crime which he well knew was punished with death.

His fate, indeed, gives an additional proof that perfection cannot be found in man.

William Griffiths was a native of Shropshire, and followed the business of husbandry till he had attained his eighteenth year, when he engaged in a naval life, and remained near three years in the East Indies. The ship was paid off on his return to England; and Griffiths, receiving a considerable sum

for wages, spent his money, as sailors too generally do, in no very reputable company, at public houses in Wapping, and adjacent parts.

By his connexions with men and women of abandoned character his money was soon spent, and he began to think of going to sea for a supply; and happy might it have been for him if he had done so: but David Evans and Timothy Johnson, two of his newly acquired associates, and men of very abandoned character, advised him to be concerned with them in committing robberies on the highway; and this triple association of thieves did actually commit a variety of depredations on the public, treating those they attacked with great inhumanity, but never obtaining any thing considerable by their lawless pursuits.

One of their robberies was the following:—Having strolled into the fields in the neighbourhood of

London, they wandered about till near eight o'clock in the evening, when they stopped a single-horse chaise, in which were a Mrs. Constable, the wife of a surgeon of Highgate, and her servant-maid. Mrs. Constable was driving the chaise; and the robbers had no sooner ordered them to stop than one of them fired a pistol, the ball from which touched the clothes of the parties, but did not do any farther mischief. Mrs. Constable was greatly terrified, and gave them what money she had in her purse; yet, not content with this, they searched her pockets, and took out some other articles; but, a carriage coming up at the time, they ran off with the utmost precipitation.

They were taken into custody for this offence within a very few days, and conducted to Sir John Fielding's office in Bow Street, where Evans was admitted an evidence against his accomplices. He deposed positively to the fact, and signed the information which he had given against them; yet, when they were brought to trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, he absolutely denied all that he had previously asserted, declaring that neither Johnson nor Griffiths were in his company at the time of the commission of the robbery.

On this testimony it was absolutely necessary for the jury to acquit the prisoners; but Evans was told from the Bench that he had behaved in a most scandalous manner, and was ordered back to Newgate, to take his trial for perjury.

Griffiths had no sooner experienced this narrow escape from the most ignominious death than he returned to the company of several of his old acquaintance, who used to assemble at a house of ill fame in Tothill Street, Westminster, and

soon had again recourse to the highway for a supply of money to support his extravagances.

His reign, however, was now very short, for he soon committed the fact which terminated in an ignominious death, of which we shall proceed to relate the particulars. The Rev. Dr. Dodd and his lady were returning from a visit they had been making to a gentleman at St. Albans, but were detained on the way at Barnet, because a postchaise could not be immediately procured.

Night was hastily approaching when they left Barnet; but they proceeded unmolested until they came near the turnpike at the extremity of Tottenham Court Road, when three men called to the driver of the carriage, and threatened his instant destruction if he did not stop. The post-boy did not hesitate to obey such summons; but no sooner was the carriage stopped than a pistol was fired, the ball from which went through the front glass of the chaise, but did not take any effect to the injury of the parties in it, though it terrified them in a very high degree, as they apprehended that the most fatal consequences might ensue.

While the doctor was waiting at Barnet for the chaise, it occurred to him that there might be danger on the road; upon which he concealed most of his money, except two guineas which he put in his purse, with a bill of exchange.

Soon after the pistol was fired Griffiths opened the door of the chaise; on which the doctor begged him to behave with civility, on account of the presence of the lady. He then delivered the purse, with its contents, and likewise gave the robber some loose silver. Griffiths, having received the booty, de-

camped with the utmost precipitation.

Dr. Dodd lost no time in repairing to Sir John Fielding's office, where he and his lady gave so full a description of the person of the principal robber, that it was easily conjectured that Griffiths must have been the party; but who had been his associates in the business has never yet transpired.

In consequence of this information Griffiths was soon taken into custody; but, on his examination before Sir John Fielding, Dr. Dodd hesitated to swear positively to his person; but Mrs. Dodd, who had regarded him with more attention, positively declared on oath that he was the person who had committed the robbery.

The magistrate, therefore, committed Griffiths to Newgate; and, a bill of indictment being found against him by the grand jury, he was called down to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, when the following was the substance of the evidence against him:—

Dr. Dodd declared that it was with great reluctance he came into a court of justice on such an occasion, which he said he would not have done if the robbery had not been attended with circumstances of an aggravating kind; but that the firing of the pistol was a crime of so horrid a nature, that his regard to the safety of others had induced him to commence a prosecution so abhorrent to the feelings of his own mind. He, however, would not swear to the identity of the prisoner's person.

On the contrary, Mrs. Dodd swore that he was the actual person that had committed the robbery; and declared that he had confessed his guilt when before Sir John Fielding. This evidence was deemed

so conclusive that the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

After conviction he behaved for some time in such a manner as was by no means proper for his melancholy situation; and he refused to attend divine service in the chapel: but, after the arrival of the warrant for his execution, his conduct appeared to be totally changed, and he wept almost incessantly. He acknowledged the utmost readiness to listen to the instructions of the Ordinary of Newgate, and made a ready confession of many robberies in which he had been concerned, owning that he had been long deserving of the dreadful fate that then awaited him.

Among other things which he confessed was, that he was the person who fired the pistol at Mrs. Constable; and that he prevailed on a woman of his acquaintance to persuade Evans to take a false oath on the trial, the consequence of which was the acquittal of himself and Johnson.

He owned that his attachment to the company of women of abandoned character contributed in a great degree to his destruction, as his extravagance in the support of them induced him to think of having recourse to the highway for a supply, the consequence of which would be an ignominious death.

The rest of his behaviour was by no means inconsistent with his calamitous situation; and the Ordinary of Newgate, conceiving that he was a sincere penitent, did not hesitate to administer to him the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

When the fatal day of execution arrived he attended service at the chapel of Newgate, where his behaviour was such as to justify the



ideas that had been formed of the sincerity of his repentance. Being brought down into the Press-yard, his irons were knocked off, and he was put into the cart to be conveyed to the fatal tree: on which occasion he wept, as penetrated with the utmost contrition for his past crimes; and at the place of execution he cautioned the attending multitude in general, and youth in particular, to take warning by his unhappy fate.

He was executed at Tyburn, January the 20th, 1773.

The following malefactors were executed along with Griffiths, of whom we find no particulars recorded:—

Benjamin Bird, for forging a bill of exchange, the indorsement

of Mrs. More, with an intent to defraud Robert Thompson; George Turner and William Simpson, for robbing William Graham on the highway of his silver buckles; and Nathaniel Bailey, for robbing Mr. Bullock, in Basinghall Street, of a cane.

When the melancholy procession of these criminals, as usual, stopped opposite St. Sepulchre's Church, to hear the bellman repeat the warning, Bird, in the utmost agony of mind, threw his head on the shoulder of the clergyman who sat next to him, and, while he hid his face, his whole frame was agitated in a manner not to be described, which Dr. Johnson denominates 'the utmost exacerbation of human misery.'

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### JOSEPH COOPER,

EXECUTED FOR ROBBING HIS MASTER.

THIS man's crime and ingratitude, as far as respects the robbery, is precisely the case of George Barnwell. Cooper, like him, unhappily became the dupe of a second Milwood, and through her instigation he was worked up to rob his benefactor. Surely no servant who has even seen the representation of Lillo's fine tragedy, founded on a fact, would ever dare to venture upon the commission of so foul a crime.

Joseph Cooper was the son of very poor, but honest, parents: his father died when he was but seven years of age, and his mother, thus deprived of a protector, was reduced to take in washing for the maintenance of herself and three helpless children, of whom Joseph was the eldest. Through some friends, who pitied her distress, this boy was admitted into a charity school, where he continued till he was fourteen years of age, when

Mr. Beaumont, a cutler in Red-cross Street, took him as an apprentice, in mere compassion to his destitute situation of life.

Mr. Beaumont was a man in a very extensive way of business; so that the youth had an opportunity of becoming a complete master of his profession; and such was his diligence and good behaviour for a considerable time, that perhaps no lad in such a situation as he was ever acquired a better character, or was more esteemed by the neighbours and others who had connections with his master.

Mr. Beaumont, observing this excellent disposition, treated him with the utmost kindness, with a view to inspire him with a resolution of continuing in the practice of that duty which was so likely to be productive of his present and future happiness.

Unhappily, however, for Cooper, this gentle treatment had not its de-

sired effect ; yet he served out his apprenticeship with fidelity, and afterwards lived some time with his master as a journeyman. Mr. Beaumont still continued to treat him with his usual kindness ; and so generous was his behaviour towards him, that the least attention to his own interest would most probably have preserved him from ruin, and enabled him to have made a very creditable figure in life.

Unfortunately for himself, Cooper got acquainted with a number of young fellows of dissolute character, who frequented a public house in Golden Lane, where they spent their time in scenes of riot and dissipation, equally calculated to destroy their health of body and peace of mind.

Cooper's former principles of virtue were all unhinged by an association with such obnoxious companions, and his mind was soon contaminated with ideas that led with rapid and certain progress to his destruction.

At length, through the instigation of his companions, he frequented houses of ill fame, which introduced him to the company of women of abandoned character ; one of whom he became intimately acquainted with, and cohabited with her at a house of an infamous description in Denmark Court, in the Strand.

In the conversation between Cooper and his girl, the latter advised him to rob his late master, as the readiest way to raise a supply to support their present extravagance ; and this scheme was thought the more practicable as Cooper, having lived several years in the house, knew all the avenues to it, and every part of which he was well acquainted with.

Cooper at first appeared to be shocked at the simple idea of so

basely injuring a man who had protected him in the early part of life, and had, on all occasions, proved himself a disinterested friend ; and he actually, for some time, refused to have any concern in such an ungenerous transaction : at length the arguments of the girl prevailed, and he resolved on the commission of the crime which terminated in his destruction.

It was Mr. Beaumont's custom to spend his evening at a public house in Old Street ; and on his return home he carefully locked his doors, and observed that every other place of possible entrance was made fast, in order to prevent the admission of robbers : yet his vigilance proved fruitless, for Cooper, whom of all men he would have least suspected, became the ungenerous infringer on the property of his benefactor.

Mr. Beaumont, having seen his house secure at night, retired to rest ; but about two o'clock the next morning he was awakened by a noise that seemed to be in his room. Terrified in a high degree by this unexpected visit, he was for some time afraid of venturing out of his bed ; but at length, hearing that some person had gone out of his chamber, and shut the door, he got up, and discovered that his bureau had been broken open, and a hundred guineas stolen from it. He likewise observed that the lock of the chamber door, and the chain which confined it, had been forced open by means of a chisel.

As it was presumed that the person who had committed the robbery could not be at any great distance, Mr. Beaumont alarmed the watchmen, who made an immediate pursuit ; and, though they did not overtake the robber, they presumed that they were near him, from hearing the trampling of feet hastily

moving in the street, as those of a person flying from a pursuer.

The circumstances attending this robbery made it almost evident that the person who committed it must have been intimately acquainted with the avenues of the house ; and Mr. Beaumont was induced to suspect that Cooper was the thief, from what he had then lately heard of his abandoned course of life.

Mr. Beaumont therefore sent for a constable, and at seven o'clock the following morning Cooper was taken into custody at the house where he resided in, Denmark Court in the Strand.

He at first denied having had any concern in the robbery ; but, being conveyed to his master's house, the precise money lost, except one guinea, was found on him. Mr. Beaumont sent for a neighbour, named Dyson, to advise him how to act, and expressed, with tears, his aversion to the thought of prosecuting him.

Mr. Dyson told him it would be unsafe to discharge him ; on which he was conveyed to the Compter, and, on his examination before the sitting alderman, such strong evidence of his guilt appeared, that he was committed to Newgate, to take his trial at the next Old Bailey sessions.

After a fair and candid trial the jury brought in a verdict of guilty, but joined in recommending him as an object of the royal clemency ; and Mr. Beaumont, his master, signed a petition in behalf of the wretched convict ; but, after the report was made to the king, he was included among those who were ordered for execution.

He behaved in the most contrite manner at the fatal tree, where he confessed that he had merited that public and ignominious death which the law had justly awarded for his crimes.

He suffered at Tyburn June the 30th, 1772.

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### JOHN LENNARD,

EXECUTED FOR A RAPE.

A PAIR of such finished villains as Bolland and Lennard can hardly be paralleled. The long course of iniquity of the former we have already exposed ; yet, though on the same pursuit, there will be found some variety in the crimes of the latter.

Bolland was a principal in hunting down the miserable—Lennard a follower ; and hence their appetites in knavery differed widely in an honest master and his man. Bolland plundered by stratagem—Lennard by force.

Vere, a sheriff's officer, having put an execution into a house of Mr. Brailsford, in Petty France, Westminster, he placed Lennard, Graves, and Gay, three of his followers, in possession.

On the second floor of this house lodged Miss Boss, a young lady, whom Lennard robbed of that which constitutes the fairest part of the female sex—her chastity and peace of mind.

To enter into the particulars of the evidence given in Court, in proof of the guilt of this unmanly and most atrocious offence, would not meet every eye in its proper sense : we shall, therefore, let the outlines suffice.

On the 15th of June these three ruffians were in possession of the house for the cause above named ; and the family were all out, in different pursuits of the means to raise money to redeem the goods, save Miss Boss, who was at work in her own apartment ; when Lennard



opened the door, and began in a familiar manner to speak to her. At first terror deprived her of utterance ; but, finding him proceed to take those liberties which female virtue can never suffer, she resisted, screamed out, seized the villain by the throat, struggled until she was exhausted, and then sunk down, deprived of reason. In this situation, which would have raised the compassion of a brute, he used her in the way that constituted the offence for which he was justly executed.

A neighbour, hearing the cries of the distressed female, and suspecting some foul deed, knocked at the street door, and inquired the cause of the noise ; to which Lennard, opening the window, replied that it was only a drunken woman ; upon which the inquirer retired.

The three villains, Lennard, Graves, and Gay, were indicted for this cruel outrage ; Lennard as the principal, and the others as accessories to the fact ; and upon their trial they were all found guilty. Graves and Gay were burnt in the hand and imprisoned ; but sentence of death was immediately passed upon Lennard.

Although convicted upon the clearest evidence, this obdurate man denied that he was guilty ; and, on the Sunday before he suffered, he received the sacrament from the hands of the Rev. Mr. Temple, and then, in the most solemn manner, declared to that gentleman that he was entirely innocent of the fact for which he was to die ; that he had been repeatedly intimate with Miss Boss, with her own consent ; and that all the reason he could conjecture for her prosecuting him was, that he had communicated this matter to Graves, one of the other followers, who availed himself of the secret, and found means to get

into the young lady's room, and who really perpetrated the fact with which she had falsely accused Lennard.

In this story he persisted all the time he remained in Newgate ; but Mr. Temple, suspecting his veracity, delivered a paper to Mr. Toll, another gentleman who usually administered spiritual comfort to the malefactors in their last moments, in which he requested him to ask Lennard about those two assertions before he was turned off.

This request Mr. Toll and his colleague punctually complied with, and the unhappy man then acknowledged that he had taken the sacrament to an absolute falsehood ; that there was not a word of truth in his impeaching Miss Boss, but that he alone abused her ; that he was taught in Newgate to believe that the falsehood might do him service ; that he found his mistake too late, and all the atonement he could make was to acknowledge the truth before he left the world, and to beg pardon of God for having acted in so atrocious a manner.

All the charity which can be accorded to the fate of this most wretched man is to hope that his last confession and repentance were sincere, and that they might reach the throne of grace.

With Lennard, on the 11th of August, 1773, suffered the following malefactors at Tyburn :—William Eames, for uttering a bank-note of forty pounds, knowing it to be forged ; Thomas Younger and Thomas Green, for a burglary in the house of Mrs. Mortimer, milliner, in Gravel Lane, Ratcliffe Highway ; Joseph Holmes and Maurice Murry, for a burglary in the house of John Wiley, in Crown Court, Whitecross Street ; and Thomas Plunket, for robbing Mr. Dudley on the highway.



*Field sold as a Slave in North America.*

**WILLIAM FIELD, ALIAS GREEN,  
EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.**

THIS notorious robber, who occasionally went by many different names, and assumed a variety of disguises, within six months only of his depredations took seven hundred pounds on the highway, at the repeated hazard of his life. While possessed of this sum, he was obliged, from motives of personal safety, to deny himself the common enjoyments of mankind; and, after playing a long and most unhappy *bo-peep* game, was on a sudden unexpectedly apprehended, and at last suffered an ignominious death in the presence of a multitude of spectators.

Field had been a gentleman's livery servant, that ready road to the gallows, and had been turned out of several places, humiliating as they are, for his irregularities. At

length the badness of his character prevented any gentleman from taking him into his house.

The highway being the general recourse of discharged footmen, Field commenced highwayman.

It is generally owing more to the master's pride than the footman's original disposition that so many of these motley fellows are brought to the gallows. When they are more chosen for their size and personal gifts than for their mental acquirements or their fidelity and honesty, what can be expected from them but insolence and extravagance? When we find them too often caressed for what they deserve to be whipped, and rewarded alone for drudgery in vice, how can we expect to see them any other than as they are—the most lazy,



useless, insolent, and corrupt part of society ?

To the pert insolence of a footman Field added the daring impulse of desperation as a highwayman. While in place he had made a large acquaintance with hostlers, jockeys, and post-boys : he therefore found no difficulty in borrowing horses to carry him through his depredations ; and he gained information of travellers of property from the gang who had long been his comrades.

One of his most daring attempts at robbery was upon the late celebrated Colonel Luttrell, brother to the late Duchess of Cumberland, and another gentleman, whom he stopped near Guusbury House.

The colonel immediately fired a pistol, without effect, at the highwayman, who, in return, presented one at the traveller ; but, from its having been some time loaded, it would not go off, upon which he rode away. This pistol Field confessed he took from Colonel West's housekeeper some time before, when he stopped and fired at that officer, whom Field apprehended he had shot in the breast.

The money of which he robbed travellers for some time he squandered upon lewd women and abandoned discarded servant-men. He was, however, at length apprehended, and convicted of a robbery ; but, through the lenity of his prosecutor, the sentence of death was remitted to seven years' transportation to America. Thither he was sent, and sold as a slave ; but soon finding means to escape, with others, from bondage, he fled to New York, and there embarked on board a vessel bound for Poole, in Dorsetshire.

Once more in London, Field associated himself with the notorious Hawke, whose life we shall here-

after give, and, in company, they committed many robberies, and obtained large booties.

They now dressed like gentlemen, and Field courted a girl who lived servant with a man of fortune. She consented to accept him for a husband.

For some months after his marriage he committed highway robberies about twice a week ; but his wife had no suspicion of the life he led, conceiving him to be a man in good circumstances.

He frequently committed four or five robberies in a night, sometimes on Finchley Common, and often on Shooter's Hill, Blackheath, and other places in that neighbourhood ; when once, being closely pursued, he effected a difficult escape to town. After this he frequented Putney Common, and its adjacencies, whence he brought considerable booties into London.

Field, Hawke, and another, having robbed some coaches, dined and made merry at a public house at Barnes ; and, staying till it was near night, they crossed Kew Bridge, and went to Acton, where they slept, being afraid of coming to London.

Notice having been given at Sir John Fielding's office, persons were sent out on different roads, and the offenders, being taken, were conveyed, handcuffed, to Tothill Fields' Bridewell.

On a subsequent day they were examined ; and, a great number of robberies being sworn against Hawke and Field, they were remanded to prison, whence the former made his escape in a few days.

Though Field had returned from transportation, it was thought proper to indict him at the Surrey assizes for the subsequent robberies, when he would have pleaded guilty ; but Lord Chief Baron Smythe ad-



vised him to put himself on his trial; and, the jury having given a verdict against him, the judge pronounced sentence, after address-

ing him in the most pathetic manner; and he was executed accordingly, on Kennington Common, September the 1st, 1773.

## LIEUTENANT-GENERAL WILLIAM GANSEL,

TRIED FOR FIRING A PISTOL AT JOHN HYDE.

GENERAL GANSEL, having greatly impaired his fortune by a life of gaiety, had been several years under great pecuniary embarrassments, from which he was using his utmost endeavours to extricate himself at the time when the transaction happened which gave rise to the trial, of which it is our present business to relate the particulars.

In the forenoon of the 26th of August, 1773, Mr. Lee, an eminent surgeon, applied to John Hyde to arrest General Gansel for a debt of a hundred and thirty-four pounds. They went to the proper office, and obtained a special *capias*; after which the officer applied to his brother, Thomas Hyde, Henry Feltus, William Sleigh, and Richard Reeves, to assist in the intended capture.

Between two and three in the afternoon Mr. Lee met the bailiff and his assistants, and, accompanied by John Hyde, went to the house of Mr. Mayo, in Craven Street, Strand; the other men being appointed to wait at some distance. The street door being open, they went into the parlour, and Mr. Lee asked Mrs. Mayo whether General Gansel lodged in her house. Being answered in the affirmative, Hyde went into the street, and, having beckoned for his companions to come up, attempted to go towards the general's apartments; but on the stairs he was opposed by two boys, who were brothers, and servants to the general. At this time the other bailiffs entered the passage, and John Hyde having

struck a knife from the hand of one of the boys with a walking-stick, and thrown it out of the window, he and his brother were soon overpowered, and bolted in the yard.

John Hyde deposed that, when the boys were in the yard, he proceeded towards the second floor, and observing the general, with whose person he was well acquainted, upon the landing-place, hastened towards him, and placed his knee between the chamber door and the wainscot, and endeavored to force into the room, when the general discharged a pistol, the ball from which passed through the upper panel of the door, towards the hinge, and struck the wainscot on the staircase; that he then got into the room, and, clapping the general on the shoulder, said 'Sir, you are my prisoner;' when the general, with his left arm over his right shoulder, pointed another pistol at his face; but that, by suddenly stooping his head, he fortunately escaped the ball, which passed through the hat of Henry Feltus; that the general was then with much difficulty forced down stairs, and put into a hackney-coach, which conveyed him to a lock-up house kept by a sheriff's officer, named Armstrong, whence he was soon afterwards removed to Newgate.

Feltus produced the hat through which the ball of the second pistol had passed; but neither his evidence, nor that of Thomas Hyde, Sleigh, or Reeves, materially dif-

ferred from that of the first witness.

The general said that, though he was not wholly unused to speak in public, his ill state of health, and other circumstances, had given rise to an apprehension that he might be incapable on the present occasion to do justice to his cause in an extempore address, and he had therefore reduced his defence to writing.

He then read the defence, which, among other matters, set forth, that being informed by his servants, Henry and James, that the house was surrounded by armed ruffians, and, presently after, hearing a violent uproar at the head of the stairs, he locked himself into his chamber, against the door of which he placed an elbow chair; and, the uproar increasing, he fired off a pistol, pointed to the upper part of the door, with a view of deterring the assailants, who soon broke into the room, the forcing the door throwing him down, and the second pistol going off without design, while he was falling. He said that, from a perusal of 'Blackstone's Commentaries,' he was taught to believe that an Englishman's house is his castle, and that a room hired for a certain time was to be considered as his castle; that he paid for his apartments by the year; and that he had occupied them eight-and-thirty years, sixteen of which Mr. Mayo had been his landlord; and that he conceived he had an undoubted right of defending himself in his own habitation. In the course of his address the prisoner mentioned several persons whom he desired might be examined on his behalf.

Several witnesses swore that the bolt of the lock belonging to the general's chamber door had been strained, and the screws of the receiver of the bolt forced out of the

wood; and they likewise deposed that, from a very particular examination, they were confident the ball must have took a different direction, had the pistol been fired when the door was open; adding that, when the door was open only three inches, they perceived that the impression made by the ball on the wainscot of the staircase was not nearly in a right line with the hole in the panel in the door, but that, when the door was perfectly closed, there was an exact correspondence between the hole through which the ball passed and the mark where it afterwards struck the wainscot.

Mrs. Mayo swore that from the time the transaction happened the premises had not been seen by any person but in her presence, and that no alterations whatever had been made.

The above is a faithful abstract of the evidence adduced for and against the prisoner, on an indictment for feloniously shooting at John Hyde: the first count charging him with firing off a pistol held in his right, and the second with firing at the same man another pistol held in his left hand. After the jury had remained out of Court some time, they brought in their verdict, 'Not guilty.'

The general was arraigned on two other indictments: one for feloniously shooting at Thomas Hyde; and the other for feloniously shooting at Henry Feltus: but the counsel for the prosecution informed the Court that, 'as the general was acquitted on the merits, he should wave proceeding on the two last indictments.'

General Gansel was tried at the Sessions House in the Old Bailey on Wednesday, the 8th of September, 1773.

It was imagined that the princi-

pal matter for the decision of the Court would have been 'Whether the law would justify a man in opposing a forcible entry into his place of habitation, and how far the character, office, and authority of the assailants were to be considered in mitigation of a violent attack?' but the question took a turn very different from what was expected.

The evidence of John Hyde and his associates set forth that the door was partly open when the general fired; but the contrary appeared from the depositions of other witnesses. It does not seem that the first pistol was pointed immediately at any person; for the hole in the door was considerably higher than

the head of the tallest man; and it is very probable that the second pistol went off while the general was falling. Thus the matter seems to have been understood by the jury.

Nothing but the last extremity of danger can justify the use of fire-arms, or other desperate weapons. There is something extremely shocking in the idea of taking away the life of a fellow-creature when he is unprepared for eternity.

Let our readers remember that, if it should prove their misfortune to labour under injury and oppression, the most eligible means of obtaining redress will be by an application to the legislative power.

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### SAMUEL MALE, EXECUTED FOR ROBBERY.

THE short life of this culprit was remarkable for producing two surprising instances of the uncertainty of identity.\*

On the 4th of September, 1772, he was arraigned at the bar of the Old Bailey, for robbing Mrs. Ryan, at which time, in a note

\* A very remarkable instance of personal similitude happened at New York, in North America, in the year 1804.

A man was indicted for bigamy, under the name of James Hoag. He was met, as was supposed, in a distant part of the country by some friends of his first wife (for there, as well as in our own country, there can be but one real wife), and apprehended.

The prisoner denied the charge, and said his name was Thomas Parker. On the trial, Mrs. Hoag, her relations, and many other creditable witnesses, swore that he was James Hoag, and she swore positively that he was her husband.

On the other side, an equal number of witnesses, and equally respectable, swore that the prisoner was Thomas Parker; and Mrs. Parker appeared, and claimed him as her husband.

The first party were again called by the Court, and they not only again deposed to him, but that by stature, shape, gesture, complexion, looks, voice, and speech, he was James Hoag. They even described a particular scar on his forehead, by which he could be known. On turning back the hair, the scar appeared.

The others, in return, swore that he had lived among them, worked with them, and was in their company, on the very day of his alleged marriage with Mrs. Hoag. Here the scales of testimony were balanced, for the jury knew not which party to give credit to.

Mrs. Hoag, anxious to gain back her husband, declared he had a certain more particular mark on the sole of his foot. Mrs. Parker avowed that her husband had no such mark; and the man was ordered to pull off his shoes and stockings. His feet were examined, and no mark appeared.

The ladies now contended for the man, and Mrs. Hoag vowed that she had lost her husband, and she would have him. During this strife a justice of the peace from the place where the prisoner was apprehended entered the Court, and turned the scale in his favour. His worship swore him to be Thomas Parker; that he had known, and occasionally employed him, from his infancy; whereupon Mrs. Parker embraced and carried off her husband in triumph, by the verdict of the jury.



taken of the circumstance, he was called 'the unfortunate barber's boy,' being then very young.

The prosecutrix, and other evidence, swore *positively* that the prisoner committed the robbery on the 17th of June then last past.

The Court consequently supposed conviction would follow; but, being called on for his defence, he said he was innocent, and that the books of the Court would prove where he was on the day of the robbery.

Reference was immediately made to the records; and strange, yet true to relate, that, on the very day and hour sworn to, Male was actually on his trial, at the bar where he then stood, for another robbery, when he was unfortunate enough to have been mistaken for the robber. He was consequently acquitted, and his case greatly commiserated.

We might reasonably conclude that these escapes, when innocent, would have deterred him from guilt; but the inside of Newgate will very soon contaminate the

youthful mind, and, though discharged with honour, he came out a determined thief. His career of villainy was short indeed; for in six months afterwards we find him expiating his crimes at the gallows.

He was at length charged with a real robbery, committed by him on the person of Mrs. Grignon, and, being unable longer to prove an *alibi*, as he had hitherto done, he was found guilty.

The circumstances of his acquittals, which might have proved advantageous, now militated against him. Merey could not be extended to one who, in defiance of all warning, would turn robber.

He suffered at Tyburn March the 25th, 1773, along with Matthew Doyle, for robbing Mr. Lewis Herne; Joseph Richardson and Jonathan Brannon, for burglary. The ages of these four malefactors did but just outnumber the scriptural number of the years of one man; yet it was said, 'though young in years, they were old in iniquity.'

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### JOHN CHALLENGOR,

EXECUTED FOR PARRICIDE.

Of all murders, the shedding the blood of a parent—stopping the very fountain from whence flowed our life—is the most shocking. It is a matter of horror to reflect how dreadfully human nature can be debased; yet already, far too often, has duty tortured our feelings in recording such abominable cases. To endeavour to amend the heart, and to deter others from crime, is the intent of this Calendar—the very end of punishments.

This parricidal monster was a laborer, brought up to his father's employ, and had, during life, toiled by his side. They were at work

together in a wood near Stone, in Staffordshire, and, some hasty words having passed between them, the ingrate seized an iron pot, in which he had just cooked their dinner, and threw it with such vengeance at his devoted sire, that one of its feet entered the old man's skull; and of the wound he languished, in extreme agony, three days, and then expired.

The murderer was immediately committed to goal, where he showed little remorse at his fell deed; and seemed alone anxious for his father's recovery, from the dread of being hanged for the murder.

This John Challenor was of a ferocious revengeful disposition : he treated his wife and children with great cruelty.

Once, upon a trifling occasion, he aimed a blow at his wife, which killed his child, an infant in her arms ; but, the brutal deed being attributed to accident, he, for a while, escaped his deserved punishment.

Being now brought to trial at Stafford assizes, the deposition of his deceased parent, with other corroborating circumstances of his guilt, being adduced, the jury found no hesitation in pronouncing him guilty ; on which he was executed, August the 23d, 1773, amid the execrations of an incensed multitude, and his body was ordered to be hung in chains near the spot where he committed this most foul deed, which was accordingly done.

On the same day on which he suffered, another murderer, of the name of Ambrose Cannon, was executed at Horsham, in Sussex, for a murder in which he had joined one Thomas Green, to whom he had been apprentice above sixteen years before.

These two villains barbarously killed one Thomas Cole, and they both immediately fled from justice, and escaped to parts beyond the sea.

During thirteen years had Cannon struggled with his conscience ; which at length (as sooner or later it ever will) became so tortured with remorse, that he could no longer remain in satisfaction out of his own country : in short, his mind could afford him no rest, and he yearned to throw himself upon his fate. He returned even into the same county where he had joined in the murder, and settled at Hastings, under a feigned name, married, and had three children. At length he betrayed himself, was seized, and, sufficient proof being adduced, though more than sixteen years had intervened, found guilty, and hanged.

Another most detested parricide, of the name of Thomas Hitchcock, was tried, convicted, and executed at Oxford, on the 2d of March, 1778, for the cruel murder of his venerable father.

It is a melancholy reflection that such unnatural and horrid ideas should enter the mind of man.

### WILLIAM COX,

EXECUTED FOR PRIVATELY STEALING.

THIS most expert thief was initiated into all the arts of plunder and deception, at a very early period of life, by his own father !

The elder Cox had long been a robber in all the various degrees and characters assumed for that purpose. He had been transported, and for returning before the expiration of his sentence he was executed.

Of the old sinner we shall here adduce but one instance of his depravity towards his son, the immediate subject of this memoir.

The father and his son passing through Grosvenor Street, the former observed a silver tankard in a window, and attempted to steal it ; but, being prevented by the iron rails of the area, he lifted the boy over them, ordering him to take the tankard, which he immediately handed to his father, who lifted him back into the street.

The father, as we have already observed, having been transported, young Cox was left to depredate on his own account ; and, as usual, with other wicked habits, he began

by picking pockets ; but was soon apprehended, and committed to Bridewell, where he was reduced to a most miserable degree of poverty ; but he no sooner obtained his liberty than he procured decent apparel, and was from that time remarkably clean and neat in his appearance.

Cox lived some years at the house of his uncle, West, in Feathers' Court, High Holborn, who encouraged him to pursue those illegal courses which led to his destruction.

He got unperceived into a grocer's, the corner of Long Lane, in Aldersgate Street, and stole a silver-hilted sword from a room on the first floor. Returning through the shop with his booty, he was asked some questions ; on which he said he had been playing with Master Billy, which he had informed himself was the name of the grocer's son ; but on going out of the shop the sword struck against the steps, and he was taken into custody, and brought to trial, but it was his fortune to escape conviction.

Being provided with a tame sparrow, he let the bird fly into a window of a house in Hanover Street, and, the door happening to be open, he went in, and concealed plate to a considerable amount. Hearing some person walking towards the room, he sought refuge in the area, where being perceived by an elderly gentlewoman, who was the only person in the house, he burst into tears, and, saying his sparrow had flown into the window, requested he might be allowed to catch it. The old lady complied, and he soon found an opportunity of decamping with his booty.

It was the common practice of Cox to play at marbles and other games with young gentlemen before the doors of their parents, and

he seldom suffered an opportunity to escape of getting into and robbing the houses. He had a very remarkable boyish appearance ; and on a variety of occasions that circumstance greatly assisted him in pursuit of his felonious designs.

So childish, in fact, was his appearance (for he was very short and slender for his years), that sometimes he provided himself with marbles, and, dressing himself like young master, he would ask to play with gentlemen's children, whom he might observe, in the environs of London, amusing themselves in their father's court-yard. Thus he would insidiously get every information from the innocent and unsuspecting boys, and repay their little acts of hospitality by plundering the houses of their parents.

Cox was connected with a notorious thief, who called himself Captain Davis ; and, by means of the most artful stratagems that could be suggested, these accomplices perpetrated a surprising number of robberies. Davis was at length apprehended, and sentenced to suffer death ; but he was reprieved on condition of transportation.

About the middle of the summer, 1773, the apartments of Mr. Kendrick, in Oxford Street, were privately entered, and a bureau was opened, and three bank-notes, of a hundred pounds each, and a hundred and thirty guineas and a silver watch, were stolen, to the amount of four hundred and forty pounds. Soon after Mr. Kendrick's robbery Cox and William Claxton went together to Reading, in Berkshire, and there purchased three horses, for which Claxton paid with one of the notes stolen from Mr. Kendrick, receiving in part of change a fifty-pound bank-note, which he afterwards changed at the bank for notes of smaller value, two of which



were found in the possession of West, Cox's uncle. On the first examination of these offenders at the public office in Bow Street, which was on Wednesday, the 11th day of August, West said he received the notes of his wife on the day preceeding that of her decease, which was about the time of Mr. Kendrick's robbery; but, on the following Wednesday, he assured the magistrates that the notes had been in his possession three years. In contradiction to this it was proved that the notes had not been many days issued from the bank.

Mr. Knapp and Mr. White, of Reading, appeared, and the fifty-pound note, given in part of change of that of a hundred, was regularly traced from the hands of Claxton to the bank, where he had changed it for others of smaller

value. West was discharged, the receiving of notes, which are the produce of other notes feloniously obtained, not coming under the description of the law; and Claxton was admitted an evidence against Cox, who was committed for trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey.

The evidence against Cox was chiefly circumstantial; but it was of such a nature as to be almost as strong as positive proof, and on that evidence he was capitally convicted.

Finding the end of his career fast approaching, Cox began to prepare himself for eternity. He was executed, as we have already stated, at Tyburn, October the 27th, 1773, along with four more unhappy men, who excited much commiseration from the spectators.

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### JOHN STERLING, EXECUTED FOR FORGERY.

This unfortunate youth was the natural son of an eminent attorney at law in the Temple, and, when a child, was committed to the care of a Mrs. Elizabeth Shuter. Too much addicted to the fatal pursuit of what is called 'the pleasures of the town,' in order to support his extravagance he adopted the fatal resolution of committing a forgery in the name of his benefactress.

Mrs. Shuter, by dint of industry and frugality, had saved a few hundred pounds, and of this the ungrateful youth determined to avail himself. He gave out that she was dead, and left him sole executor.

Having forged a will to this effect, he took out letters of administration in the usual way, no person suspecting any thing unfair; and, by virtue thereof, he sold out South-Sea stock, standing in the name of Mrs. Shuter, to the amount

of three hundred and fifty pounds, in order to pay off the pretended legacies, as expressed in the forged instrument, but converted the same to his own use.

This fraud passed undiscovered until the old lady went to the South-Sea House, in order to receive her dividend, when, to her great surprise, she was told that Mrs. Shuter (herself) was dead; that her will had been administered upon, and her stock sold; but, when informed by whom this was done, she was struck with the deepest sorrow. She had nursed and brought up the youth with maternal tenderness, and loved him as though he had been her own child.

This being a forgery by which the South-Sea Company were defrauded, it was not in the power of the unhappy woman to prevent a prosecution. He was immediately

apprehended, tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, convicted, and sentenced to death.

He solemnly declared his intention to replace the money ; and the jury, moved at his youth and inadvertent conduct, recommended him to mercy ; but none could be ac-

corded in such a description of crime. He was executed at Tyburn, October the 27th, 1773.

He was very penitent, and his death will operate as a warning to young men coming into life in such a scene of temptation to vice as the metropolis.

### ELIZABETH HARRIOT GREEVE,

TRANSPORTED FOR FELONY.

No proverb was ever more true than the trite remark, that nothing is so abandoned as a shameless woman ; that she is never wicked by halves ; that with her modesty she puts off her humanity, and realizes that idea of mischief, seduction, deceit, and remorseless treachery, which the ancients attributed to their syrens and harpies.

Elizabeth Harriot Greeve was one of those specious swindlers, who, pretending to great patronage, cheat the credulous by promises of preferment.

With one of the dupes of her artifice, she was first cousin to Lord North ; with another, second cousin to the Duke of Grafton ; to a third, nearly related to Lady Fitzroy ; on some occasions she affected great intimacy with Lord Guildford ; and, had the young premier then ruled the state, she would, without much doubt, have boasted the patronage of Mr. Pitt.

On Wednesday, the 3d of No-

vember, 1773, this female sharper, and consummate impostor, was brought to the bar of the public office, Bow Street, under various charges of fraud.

William Kidwell, a coach-carver, swore that the woman at the bar, who called herself the Honorable Elizabeth Harriot Greeve, had defrauded him of thirty-six pounds, under a promise of procuring him the place of clerk to the stores in the Victualling Office. He said that, the fashion of carving coaches being on the decline, he wished to invest the little sum he had, by dint of frugality and hard labour, saved, in the purchase of some place, and for this purpose advertised for such a situation.\* This pretended honorable lady answered the advertisement, and soon lured him out of the sum above mentioned.

William Kent, of Streatly, in Berkshire, charged her with defrauding him of thirty pounds in cash, and obtaining from him his

\* This is a great source of plunder to sharpers. A man with a small capital often wishes to increase his income by so desirable a situation as a clerkship in a public office, or a *sleeping* partner in a lucrative business. For advertisements of this nature hundreds of villains in the metropolis are watching. The unsuspecting advertiser generally falls into the snare of a swindler, or writhes under the gripe of a falling tradesman. The former holds out the lure of places under government ; the other the prodigious profits of his concern, which only wants, he says, a few hundreds, to make it yield ten-fold.

In the first case he is swindled under a variety of plausible tales, artfully contrived, and often repeated ; but in the other he falls indeed !

His little capital is scarcely placed in trade when he finds it swallowed up in a statute of bankruptcy, and himself cast into a loathsome prison, from having entered into connexion with a worthless and deceitful partner. For such villains the gallows is a fit punishment.

conditional bond for two hundred and fifty pounds more, which, together, was the price of the place of a coast-waiter.

This deluded man, upon the promises of Mrs. Greeve, quitted his business in the country, and, with his wife and children, came to London, and remained there some time in the most anxious expectation before he discovered the imposition.

Elizabeth Cooper next appeared before the magistrates, and charged the prisoner with defrauding her late husband of sixty-two pounds, on a similar pretence to the last case, the loss of which, and his disappointment, the poor afflicted widow said, broke his heart.

Mr. John Smith's charge was, the promise of the prisoner of obtaining for him the place of a settled tidesman, for which he gave money from time to time, until he was entirely ruined.

Mr. James Tilley was the next witness examined on this very extraordinary occasion. He deposed that he had retired from business, and advertised for a place, that the employment of which might fill up his leisure hours. The *honorable*

Mrs. Greeve answered the advertisement, and promised him also that he should be provided with the place he wished for; and he seemed to exult that he had only been swindled out of ten pounds before he suspected foul play.

The sum of her villainy was proved by another witness, whom the rest had, through some industry, found out: this was her factotum, agent, clerk, and friend, an occasional esquire, of the name of Francis Crook. This man swore that, when he first acted as her *agent*, he did not know she was an impostor; that he had agreed with a number of persons for the sale of places, whom he took to his mistress; but *she* always received the money paid in advance.

This artful female was soon recognised to have been transported two years before, from whence she returned before the expiration of the term of her service: she was again disposed of in a similar manner, and, finding no farther mention made of her, we conclude that at length the public were fortunately freed from so dangerous a nuisance.

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### CHARLES MILLS AND JOHN PUGH,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

THESE offenders were born of poor parents, and received little or no education. In the winter they acted as porters on the wharfs of the Thames, and in the summer employed themselves as haymakers; but at length associating with abandoned company of both sexes, who lived in Chick Lane, and such places, they lost those fair characters they had hitherto supported.

Distressed in circumstances by their own vices, they determined to supply their wants by robbery; but, their appearance being too mean

to permit them to think of hiring horses, they determined to commence footpads, and committed a number of robberies in the fields north of London, frequently ill treating those whom they robbed. Their success for some time was trifling, but, being sufficient to furnish them with several offensive weapons, their depredations became more frequent, and their booties were spent, as those of thieves generally are, in the company of abandoned women.

They commonly met at an ale-



house in Tottenham Court Road, and, having flushed themselves with liquor, sallied forth to assault the unoffending passenger. We now proceed to mention the fact, the commission of which cost them their lives.

On the 10th of August, 1774, they met, according to custom, at the alehouse, and, having drank themselves into spirits to undertake daring exploits, they went into the fields near Primrose Hill, between London and Hampstead, when a violent shower of rain falling, they took shelter under a hedge. In the interim a gentleman named Gilson, who had been reading in a book as he strolled over the fields, came to the same spot, to avoid the violence of the shower.

When the rain abated Mr. Gilson was going away; but the villains threatened his instant death if he hesitated to deliver his money. In the mean time Mills rifled his pockets, where finding only a few shillings, the robbers blasphemed in a horrid manner; and Mr. Gilson, apprehensive of fatal consequences, then delivered his watch, with a guinea and some silver, which he had till then concealed.

Ten days afterwards Mr. Gilson was again near the same spot, and, sitting down to read, observed the identical robbers approaching him. Knowing them well, he applied to a man-servant belonging to farmer Wellings to assist him in taking them into custody. The man hesitated, as doubting if the gentleman had been really robbed; but Mr. Wellings, being informed of the affair, directed two men to go

in search of the footpads, who were soon taken, conveyed before a magistrate, and lodged in Newgate.

At the next Old Bailey sessions they were convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction they sent to some of their former companions in iniquity; but not one would attend them. For a short time they entertained hopes of being respited; but these hopes soon vanished.

Pugh behaved penitently; but Mills much more so, answering explicitly all the questions that were asked him, confessing his guilt, and wishing for life only in the hope of making reparation to those who had been sufferers by his crimes.

They were admitted to the sacrament on the morning of their execution; and, when their irons were knocked off, Pugh seemed almost abandoned to despondency, and at the place of execution he acknowledged the justice of his sentence. Mills, also, confessed that he had committed many other robberies, the result of his attachment to women of abandoned character.

Charles Mills and John Pugh were hanged at Tyburn on the 7th of November, 1774.

The most remarkable circumstance in the case of these malefactors is, that, after conviction, their former abandoned acquaintances would not visit them. Thus were they left in the utmost distress in the hour of the greatest extremity!

Hence young people should learn the extreme ill consequence of keeping bad company; and that the true way to be happy is to associate with those who have more wisdom and virtue than themselves.

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### WILLIAM HAWKE,

EXECUTED FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

This was another depredator of considerable notoriety, and of so desperate a mind as to appear dauntless of death. He was born

at Uxbridge, in Middlesex, in the neighbourhood of which town he committed many highway robberies. His father dying when he was but a boy, he came to London, without any friend to direct his steps, and hired himself as a pot-hoy—that is, a drawer of porter to a low public house—where were constantly before him examples which might lead any unprotected youth from the paths of virtue. He soon connected an acquaintance with abandoned people who frequented an alehouse in St. Giles's, and was persuaded to join them in committing depredations upon the public.

Hawke at length commenced highwayman, and became an accomplice of William Field, the particulars of whose life we have already mentioned. Field and Hawke were transported to America; and, returning to England nearly at the same period, they again became associates in committing robberies upon the highway. Hawke and Field being apprehended together, the former escaped from Tothill Fields' Bridewell, and got over to France; but the other suffered the sentence of the law.

Upon his return to England he committed a surprising number of most daring robberies; and several months elapsed before the thief-takers knew him to be the man by whom the roads about London were so dangerously infested.

Information being given to Mr. Smith, the keeper of Tothill Fields' Bridewell, that Hawke's wife had been to Uxbridge on a party of pleasure, he sought the driver of the coach in which she was conveyed, and learnt from him that Hawke lodged in Shoe Lane. The following morning Mr. Smith, Mr. Bond, Mr. Leigh, and some other persons in the service of Sir John Fielding, went to Shoe Lane. Bond,

going up two pair of stairs, entered the front room, and there discovering Hawke slumbering in bed, threw himself across the highwayman, who, twisting the sheet round Bond's head, reached at a pistol that was under the pillow, at which instant Smith entered, and caught bold of his hand. With much difficulty Hawke was secured; and, being put into a coach, he said that his misfortunes were in some measure alleviated by the consideration that no life was lost, for he was provided with several loaded pistols, and had formed the resolution of firing upon every man who should attempt to take him into custody.

Being conveyed to the public office in Bow Street, a great number of persons were bound to prosecute, and he was committed to Newgate.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey he was arraigned on an indictment for robbing Mr. Hart of a small sum of money; and the following are the most remarkable circumstances adduced in evidence:—Mr. Hart and Captain Cunningham were stopped in the Fulham stage, a little beyond Knightsbridge, by the prisoner, who demanded their money. The captain refused to resign his property; and Hawke threatened to fire, and, pointing his pistol at the captain, he said 'Fire away, and be damned!' on which the robber discharged his pistol, and the ball passed between the captain's shoulder and his coat. Mr. Hart then delivered a few shillings; and Captain Cunningham, getting out of the coach in the interim, seized the bridle of the highwayman's horse, when he discharged a second pistol. He then remounted, but did not ride away for some minutes, during which interval the captain employed himself in picking up stones, and throwing them

at him. At the time of Hawke's trial Captain Cunningham was abroad; but Mr. Hart's evidence was so positive, clear, and circumstantial, that no doubt remained as to the guilt of the prisoner, who was therefore sentenced to be executed.

While Hawke was under sentence of death, in Newgate, his behaviour was such as may be called decent, rather than penitential. While his irons were knocking off, on the morning of execution, one of his acquaintance addressed him thus: 'How do you do, Billy? will you have some flowers?'—Hawke replied, 'I am pretty well,

I thank you. How is Harry Wright? he has been ill of late, I hear,' meaning one of the turnkeys of Tothill Fields' Bridewell. And then, while the man held the nose-gay, he picked out a flower, and, with great composure, placed it in a button-hole of his coat.

When the cart was preparing to be driven from under the gallows he threw off both his shoes; and, when he found it move, he collected his utmost strength, and leaped up, so that his neck was instantly dislocated.

He suffered at Tyburn, July the 1st, 1774.

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#### AMOS MERRITT, EXECUTED FOR BURGLARY.

THIS was another old offender, and his case becomes very remarkable from his having been the means of saving an innocent person from an ignominious death at the place of execution, under the following circumstances:—

Patrick Maden, convicted of a foot-robbery on the highway, and William Waine and Levi Barnet, for burglary, were, on the 19th of August, 1774, carried to Tyburn for execution, pursuant to their sentence.

When the cart was drawn under the gallows, a man among the crowd of spectators called out for the others to make way for him, as he had something to communicate to the sheriff respecting one of the malefactors. This being effected, the man, who proved to be Amos Merritt, addressed Mr. Reynolds, the under-sheriff, and declared that Patrick Maden was innocent of the crime for which he was about to suffer. Mr. Reynolds desired he would look upon the prisoner, and speak aloud what he had represented to him. He did so, and de-

clared that he was not guilty; but declined accusing himself. The sheriffs, on hearing this declaration, dispatched Mr. Reynolds with the information to the secretary of state, and to request his farther orders, of whom he obtained a respite for Maden, who was carried back to Newgate, amid the acclamations of the people.

During Mr. Reynolds's absence, which was near an hour (dreadful time of agonizing suspense!) the other culprits remained with halters round their necks, and were then executed.

Merritt was taken into custody, and at the public office in Bow Street, before Mr. Justice Addington, confessed that he himself was the person who had committed the robbery of which Maden had been convicted. The latter was pardoned.

Though no doubt remained of Merritt's guilt, yet, as no proof could be adduced to that effect, he for a while escaped justice.

He had been guilty of many robberies, the particulars of which are



not interesting: we shall therefore come to that for which he suffered.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of December, 1774, Amos Merritt was indicted for feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Edward Ellicott, early in the morning of the 26th of October, and robbing it of plate, a gold watch, and other valuable articles to a large amount.

Mr. Ellicott deposed that he lived in Hornsey Lane, near Highgate; that he was awakened by his wife, who inquired what noise was in the house, which he thought proceeded from the servants moving the tables in the passage; but this Mrs. Ellicott thought could not be, from the hour of the night; and, ringing the bell, both of them jumped out of bed; when the first words heard were, 'Come up directly;' and then some person said, 'Damn your bloods, we will murder every soul in the house!' Mrs. Ellicott said, 'Lord bless me, the door is open!' and, running to the door, pushed it close. Mr. Ellicott gave immediate assistance; and a person who was without, whom he believed from his voice was the prisoner, said 'Damn you, if you do not open the door, I will murder every one of you!'

The rest of the evidence was to the following effect:—The villains attempted to force open the door, putting a hanger with a scabbard between that and the post; but Mr. Ellicott, who was a powerful

man, kept them out by mere strength, and having fastened the door with a drop bolt, which went into the flooring, he ran to the window, and called out 'Thieves!' In the mean time Mrs. Ellicott, by perpetual ringing of the bell, had alarmed the servants, who ran into the street after the thieves, who had by this time got off with the property.

Notice having been given at Sir John Fielding's, Merritt and his accomplices were taken into custody on suspicion, and, after an examination at Bow Street, were committed to Newgate.

At the trial the evidence was deemed so satisfactory that the jury did not hesitate to find Merritt guilty; in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

Merritt confessed that he, with J. Miller and three more, not then taken, committed the burglary and robbery in the house of Mr. Ellicott; and that John Cass, who was in custody as one of the gang, was innocent. Upon this two of them were apprehended in Whitechapel; but, while carrying to prison, a gang of thieves rushed upon the constables, beat them most unmercifully, and rescued the prisoners.

Merritt suffered at Tyburn on the 18th of January, 1775, at the same place, within a single year, where he had been the means of saving the life of Maden; the example proving no kind of warning to this hardened sinner.

### WILLIAM FARMERY,

EXECUTED FOR THE MURDER OF HIS MOTHER.

WE have reluctantly shown, in more instances than one, the unnatural brutality of men murdering their fathers; but, while we sketch the more shocking crime of this monster, we have some consolation in observing that, in our long re-

searches into the wickedness of mankind, he is the first we have met with who, with long lurking malice, shed the blood of his mother.

A subject so strangely horrid and unnatural we shall dismiss by a bare recital of the shocking circumstance.

It appears that, among other undutiful acts, he had one morning given offence to his parent, for which he was justly reproached, on which he went out of her house, took his knife from his pocket, and deliberately whetted it till quite sharp.

Then returning with the murderous instrument in his hand, he found his unfortunate mother in the act of making his own bed.

Without uttering a word, he threw her down, and, as a butcher kills a sheep, he stuck her in the throat, and there left her weltering in her blood, of which wound she died.

On his examination he confessed the fact, and said that he had deter-

mined upon his mother's death three years ago; for that he had treasured up malice against her since she had corrected him for some trifling fault when a little boy.

In the prison of Lincoln, called the Round-house, he declared that, when asleep there, he felt something move within him (the tyrant Conscience), and that when he awoke he saw his mother's ghost upbraiding him for his foul deed.

He suffered at Lincoln August the 5th, 1775, amidst the execrations of a multitude of indignant spectators.

'Even you yourself to your own breast  
shall tell  
Your crimes, and your own conscience be  
your hell.'

## JOHN BOLTON,

TRIED AND CONDEMNED FOR MURDER.

This unhappy man was reputably descended, and well educated. He served for some time in the army during the late war, and was distinguished by his gallant behaviour; but was dismissed from the military line of life in consequence of the peace of 1763.

While he was in the army, and on a recruiting party in Yorkshire, he became acquainted with a young lady, who possessing a moderate estate in her own right, he married her after he quitted the service, and turned farmer.

By this marriage he had six children, some of whom were living at the time of his death. In this station he continued happily for about ten years, when the event took place which ended in his destruction.

Near Mr. Bolton's place of residence was the village of Ackworth, in which was a house where the poor of several parishes were maintained by contract. From this

house, in the year 1768, he took, as apprentices, a boy, named Emanuel Bowes, and a girl of ten years old, called Elizabeth Rainbow. The girl grew up in his service, and was remarkable for her beauty; a circumstance very unfortunate for herself, as it induced Mr. Bolton to seduce her, the consequence of which was that her pregnancy ensued.

When Bolton was assured that the girl was with child, he went to York, and purchased a medicine, in order to procure an abortion; which medicine being administered to the young woman, she was thrown into violent convulsions; but, the strength of her constitution effectually combating the potion, she advanced in her pregnancy without any appearance of having received the least injury.

Bolton, alarmed lest his intercourse with the girl should be known to his wife and family, formed the shocking resolution of

murdering her who had fallen a victim to his seductive artifices; but no opportunity offered of perpetrating the horrid deed till Sunday, the 21st of August, 1774.

On this day Mrs. Bolton took one of her children on a visit to a lady who lived at two miles distance; and there being no persons in the house but Emanuel Bowes, the young girl who had been seduced, and a child of six years old, who was sick in bed, Bolton considered this as the proper time for perpetrating the crime on which he had previously resolved. He therefore sent the boy to fetch a cow-doctor, to look at a beast that was presumed to be disordered. The boy returning in about two hours, and finding the door fast, went to an adjoining field, and put a horse to grass; after which he knocked at the door, and his master, letting him in, told him that 'Elizabeth Rainbow had run away, and left most of her clothes behind her.'

The boy was surprised at this intelligence, and some near neighbours said that the girl had not left the house that day; and a woman, who had been to the house to pay for milk, declared that she had given the money to Rainbow, on account of the absence of her mistress.

Mrs. Bolton, returning at seven at night, observed that her husband appeared to be very uneasy, and inquired into the cause of it; to which he only answered that the girl had gone away, and left her clothes on a table in the dining-room. Whether Mrs. Bolton was, or was not, suspicious of her husband's criminal connexion with Rainbow, is a matter of doubt; but it seems probable that she was, as a violent quarrel ensued on this occasion.

About ten days after this affair

happened, the neighbours being suspicious that murder had been committed, one of them, who was a constable, went to a magistrate, who granted a warrant for the apprehension of Bolton. The latter, having heard that a warrant was issued, went to the justice, and told him that the report intended to prejudice him was circulated with a malicious view to injure his character. On this the justice told Bolton to attend him in the afternoon, when the constable would be present; instead of which Bolton went home, and, packing up some plate, set off for York, whither he was followed by the constable, who apprehended him, and, carrying him before a justice of the peace, he was lodged in prison.

On the trial, which came on at the ensuing assizes, the following circumstances were discovered, viz. when Bolton had sent the boy for the cow-doctor, he took the girl into the cellar, and strangled her with a cord which he drew round her neck, placing a life within the cord, so as to twist it to a proper tightness.

On the Monday after this affair he directed Emanuel Bowes to wheel several barrows filled with rubbish into the cellar, as it had been overflowed with water, which furnished him with a very plausible pretence for the concealment of his guilt, which he presumed would now remain undiscovered.

At length the body of the deceased was found under the rubbish in the cellar; and the coroner's inquest, being summoned on the occasion, gave a verdict of wilful murder; on which Mr. Bolton was committed to the castle of York.

The evidence on his trial was deemed so conclusive, that the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty, in consequence of which he received



sentence of death. During his trial he behaved with uncommon effrontery; and, when the judge had passed sentence on him, he turned to the Court, and declared his innocence.

On the following day a clergyman went to him, with a charitable view to prepare his mind to enable him to support himself with decency in the arduous trial he had to undergo, and to fortify it for the awful event that was so soon to await him.

Still, however, he persisted that he was innocent of the alleged crime; and, when the officers of justice went the next morning to convey him to the place of execution, they found that, by hanging

himself, he had put a period to his existence.

This event of self-murder happened in the castle of York, on the 29th of March, 1775.

There is no language in which to express our proper sense of the crimes of this unhappy man. He was first guilty of seducing a young woman from the path of virtue; he then murdered her in the fear of detection; and at length laid violent hands on himself. Such a complication of guilt must make the heart shudder; and, we trust, it cannot be necessary to write a single word to deter our readers from the commission of any of these offences.

### JANE BUTTERFIELD,

INDICTED FOR THE MURDER OF W. SCAWEN, ESQ.

IN pursuance of our promise to the public, of inserting trials in extraordinary cases, in consequence of which the parties had been acquitted, we give the following, which is very remarkable, as the presumption of guilt is the most that could possibly be imagined.

At the assizes at Croydon, for the county of Surrey, on the 19th of August, 1775, Jane Butterfield was indicted for the wilful murder of William Scawen, Esq.

The short story of this unhappy affair is as follows:—Miss Butterfield was, at fourteen years of age, seduced from her father by a woman employed by Mr. Scawen, who too soon brought the young lady to a compliance with his wishes. The seduction was followed by very disagreeable consequences: the father reprobated his daughter; and his death was hastened, as she herself acknowledged, by the grief he felt for her unhappy departure from the paths of virtue.

Mr. Scawen did not appear less

affected than herself at this deplorable event: he did every thing in his power to calm the mind of the young lady; promised to supply to her the place of her late parent; and faithfully discharged that duty, by taking the utmost care of her education, and studying to oblige her in every possible instance. He even, as she says, ‘faithfully supplied a parent’s duty: he was by nature generous, and that generosity, with regard to herself, was unbounded.’

Impelled by notions of gratitude, Miss Butterfield presumed that she could not be thought to have acted ungratefully by her benefactor.—Her attachment to the deceased was faithful, and her care of him unremitting: she administered to his wants and infirmities, and in all respects fulfilled the tender offices of a wife as much as if she had owed them to him under that sacred tie; and so diligent was her attendance, that her life was repeatedly endangered from excessive fatigue.

Mr. Scawen had been for a long time in a debilitated habit, and for the last six years could not arise or sit down without assistance; and such was the vitiated state of his body, 'that he was obliged to have the assistance of Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, the surgeon, who applied caustics to his head, which was swelled to a degree almost incredible.'

At this time Mr. Scawen reposed such confidence in Miss Butterfield that he would not permit any person but herself to apply the proper dressings. So violent was his disorder, that he remained blind near two years, but at length recovered his sight; and his other infirmities were greatly relieved; yet his habit of body became weaker, and those who visited him foresaw that he could not exist for any considerable time.

Mr. Scawen had consulted regular physicians till he was tired, out of the hope of that relief which could not be obtained. He then had recourse to quackery, and had a perfect laboratory in his house, filled with a variety of medicines, to which he had frequent recourse for the relief of his real or imaginary complaints. His closet was stocked with Ward's and Maredant's Drops, and other medicines advertised for the cure of all complaints.

Miss Butterfield constantly advised Mr. Scawen against quackery, nor ever administered any thing to him that she conceived prejudicial to his health, or that he was disinclined to take.

In the course of the trial the strength of the evidence against Miss Butterfield rested with Mr. Edmund Sanxay, a surgeon, who deposed that he had been acquainted with the deceased about fifty years; that he put himself under his care; that he was much emaciated; that he said he was but just

recovered from a salivation, which he had been thrown into by taking quack medicines for the rheumatism; that Mr. Sanxay recommended a regimen, which was observed for two days only; when Mr. Scawen came to him, and told him that in a decoction of sarsaparilla, which had been given him, he found a *brassy* taste, and that it made him very sick; that he had been frequently feverish and sick at stomach; that his mouth began to be sore; and that he apprehended he was going into another salivation.

After this Mr. Scawen was removed to Mr. Sanxay's house on the 20th of June, 1775, and died there on the 8th of July following. Mr. Sanxay declared his opinion that Mr. Scawen did not die a natural death; but that a salivation produced by mercury was the cause of this event.

On the contrary, several surgeons, and other persons of respectable character, gave such evidence as would induce a candid mind to believe that Mr. Scawen did not die by poison, but in consequence of his debilitated habit of body, and his preposterous attachment to quack medicines, in search of that relief which was not to be reasonably expected from them.

The consequence was, that the jury, after retiring about ten minutes, brought in a verdict of 'Not Guilty;' and Miss Butterfield immediately set out for London in a postchaise that had been previously provided.

We have been the shorter in our narrative of this affair, because there did not appear to be any just ground of suspicion of the alleged crime. What were the motives of this prosecution it would not be decent in us to say. It has been intimated that Mr. Scawen had made

a will greatly in favour of Miss Butterfield, and that this urged the suit against her. Be this as it may, the generous public will congratulate her, as her friends did, on her honorable acquittal.

The fatal consequences of seduction will appear evident on a consideration of this case. Miss But-

terfield's father lost his life in consequence of his daughter's being drawn aside from the paths of virtue. Let this furnish a lesson of caution to men, never to be guilty of a crime, with respect to the other sex, for which all their future tenderness can make no adequate compensation.

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